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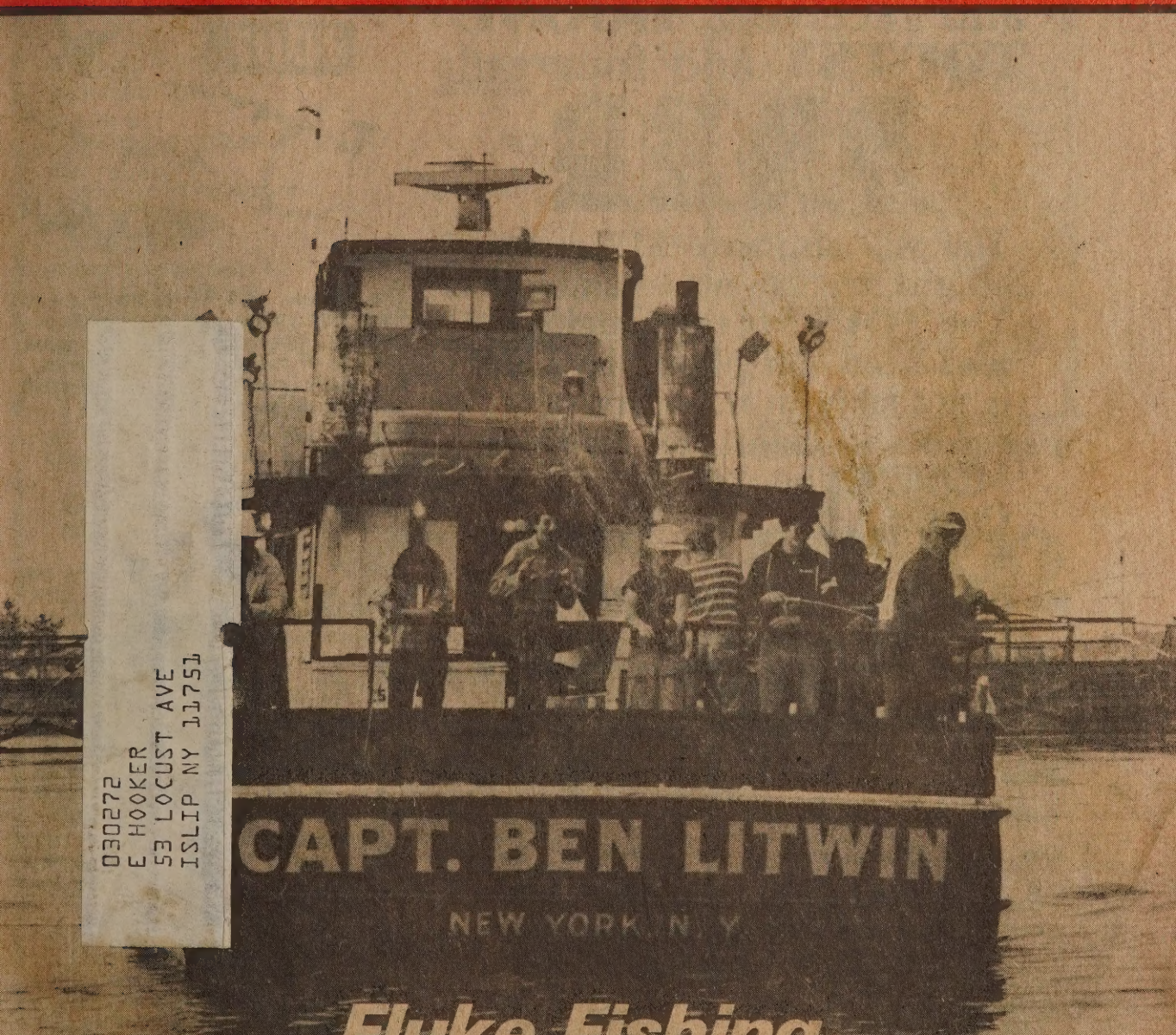
JUNE 26th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 26



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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About the Cover—

A Captree party boat drifts down a channel where fluke wait in ambush for sand eels and other baits. See the story on fluke fishing, *Drift An Inlet* on page 22.

Photo by W.A. Muller

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SEA PORGIES**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
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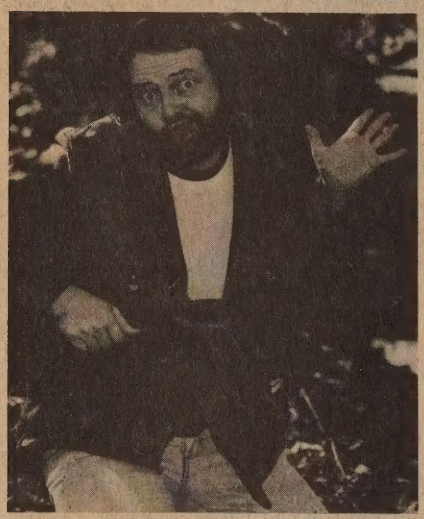

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The Fighting Chair

with William A. Muller

Setting the Record Straight on Long Island Sound PCB's

In light of recent discussions and reports concerning the levels of PCBs in the fish swimming in Long Island Sound, we felt it was incumbent upon us to investigate these reports, and upon collecting the data, to now set the record straight.

Although it is true that many living fish do contain small amounts of a variety of toxic substances, and although it is true that PCBs are a toxic threat to life that has originated within the last few decades, it is also apparently true that animal and plant life has always contained small amounts of potentially dangerous heavy metals—at least that is what data from the analysis of bottom cores from the Arctic Ocean suggest. Significant concentrations of metals such as lead were found in sediments that were at least 10,000 years old. Now, that suggests that either heavy metals are a normal constituent of our environment or that little green space men were messing up the planet 10,000 years ago. I think we'll subscribe to the first hypothesis. Surely, we cannot deny that the modern technological activities of man has damaged and contaminated our environment and we need not accept this as the status quo. Certainly, there are millions of Americans fighting to clean up our environment; but while we work hard to do so, we must eat. The question becomes a very practical one. Should we and can we eat the plants and the animals? The answer to that question for most plants and animals and for most places has been a resounding yes. In fact, in most cases there is probably a greater danger from domestically grown foods than from those living creatures that grow in the wild. We make that statement when we consider reports of toxic carcinogenic dyes, preservatives, artificial sweeteners, and hormones injected into livestock that have been demonstrated to produce tumors in other mammals.

Is the danger of PCBs a real one? Yes, since the chemical is toxic, the danger is a real one. Should we stay out of the water and not eat the fish? Certainly not! Had we been in Japan when there was a large PCB contamination problem, we would have recommended that you do not eat the fish. Yet that was an isolated instance and we must maintain a vigil against accidental and deliberate spills. We must also stop the continued contamination from PCBs by preventing additional dumping. All of these things are in the works.

Are some fish contaminated with levels of PCBs above the level set by the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency as safe for human consumption? Yes, there are some fish that exceed the limit of five parts per million. Incidentally, last summer there was considerable discussion about lowering that limit to two parts per million, but expert testimony stalled the implementation of the lower limit. However, the data reveals very clearly that for open ocean areas and our large estuaries that the overwhelming majority of the fish in these bodies of water contain levels of PCBs that fall well below the five parts per million level and a goodly number are significantly below the two parts per million level. Remember, we are talking about the fish that swim in open estuaries such as Long Island Sound. True, if one travels up the Hudson River and samples striped bass, white perch, and eels, it is likely to find some fish contaminated to the tune of several hundred parts per million along with fish that test out at much lower levels. Much depends upon how long the fish have been feeding on bait in water where the concentrations are high. Thus, in the Hudson where General Electric has been dumping PCBs for decades and where the fish species mentioned may spend years in that river, one would naturally expect concentrations of the PCBs in fish flesh to be higher. In short, a fish is what it eats and where it eats.

There has also been a lot of talk about the levels of PCBs correlating

with the size of the fish, yet the data does generally support this idea. It is apparently much more important where a fish eats than how big it is. It is also important what a fish eats.

In the last few years, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been sampling fish from Long Island Sound and testing them for PCBs. Within the last few days, Mr. Taormina, Director for Marine and Coastal Resources, DEC, has provided us with these data. One hundred and seventeen fish were tested: ninety bluefish, twenty-eight striped bass, fifteen weakfish and fifteen porgies make up this sample, and testing is continuing.

Blues were taken from three areas: fifteen from Cold Spring Harbor; thirty from the Orient area, and fifteen from the eastern Sound. The range of PCB contamination is shown on the diagram. Fifteen bass were taken from Orient Point and thirteen from Eaton's Neck. All the weaks were from the eastern Sound, and all the porgies were from the western Sound.

AREAS

SPECIES	COLD SPRING HARBOR	EASTERN SOUND	ORIENT
Blues	0.44 - 1.73 (ppm)	0.34 - 7.23	0.12 - 2.15
Bass		0.90 - 4.20	0.73 - 7.6
Weaks		0.20 - 0.56	
Porgies	0.16 - 0.86		

These fish were collected in 1978 and included all sizes of all species. Of course, the range of size on the porgies was much narrower than for the bass and blues. However, there was no attempt to test either all young fish or all older ones and the data shows no correlation between size and concentration of PCBs. Of all the fish tested, only four blues and five bass exceeded the 5 ppm level, and even then those fish did not exceed the level by a large margin.

Also, note that the highest levels were found in bass and blues which are known to be more eager feeders on large prey that are more likely to spend a lot of time in contaminated water; while porgies and weaks feed on smaller baits such as shrimp, worms, and sand eels which have very low levels of the chemical. Although weaks will eat herring and bunker and the rest of the large bait species, they are less likely to do so since they have smaller mouths and are slower swimmers.

In summary then, the fish in Long Island Sound are fine and fit to eat. You should not hesitate to eat either porgies or weakfish with any reasonable frequency (your intake should be guided by normal dietary considerations only). You may want to limit somewhat your intake of blues based upon the fact that a very few were above the 5 ppm level; however, even here there is no real cause for alarm and it is not likely that any blues you eat will contain levels above one or two parts per million. It is only with the striped bass that you should exercise some restraint. This recommendation is not new with us. Officials recommended several years ago that people limit themselves to one meal of bass per week. That is a modest limitation recommendation and, therefore, for most of us our intake will fall well below this.

Therefore, go fishing, and enjoy your fishing activity and the food that it provides. Indeed, seafood provides some of the most interesting dining moments for us and there is no reason why we shouldn't enjoy those moments with a free conscience.

Julian A. Muller

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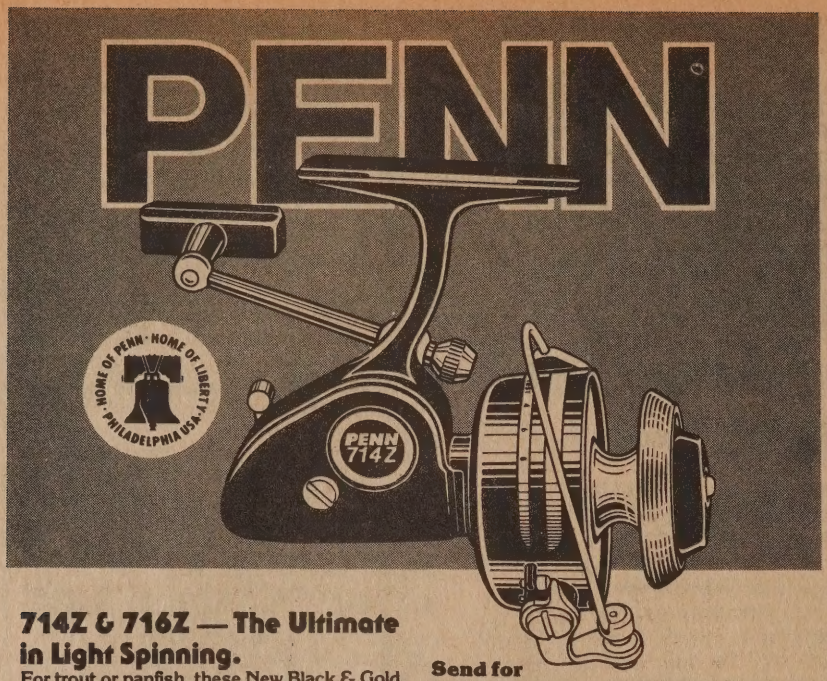

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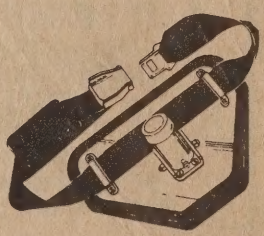

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Contests & Tournaments

ANGLER'S DEN TOURNEY

The 2nd Annual All-Island Angler's Den Weakfish Tournament is being held on July 11, 12, and 13. Entry fee is $5 per angler and Kenny of Angler's Den says it should be the biggest weakfish tourney to be held on Long Island this year. First prize is $500 cash, plus a free mount. Second prize is $250 cash; 3rd prize is $125 cash. There will also be ten $10 gift certificate awards.

For further info and entry blanks, contact Ken at Angler's Den, 456 Middle Country Rd., Selden, N.Y., 516-732-9671.

CHARITY SHARK TOURNEY SET FOR MONTAUK

The Montauk Captains Association's first annual charity Shark Tournament is ready to be run at the Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk. The 100-boat limit is nearly filled (with 84 boats having paid the entry fee thus far), and all are waiting the July 12 and 13 starting gun. Bob Bozek, President of the MCA, said that there are also a few charter boats available for those who don't have a boat and wish to join the tourney.

This contest, a first of its kind to be held in Montauk, is shaping up quite well. Representatives of the American Heart Fund and the American Cancer Society will be on hand that weekend to accept the donations. Also on hand will be the judges: Scott Simons, L.I. Fisherman; Nick Karas, Newsday; Jerry Kenney, N.Y. News and Henry Colombi, Weighmaster, Star Island Yacht Club. Jack Casey, marine biologist, will also be in attendance to inspect all fish caught. Spectators are welcome.

In addition to the money to be donated to the charities involved and the prize money for the contestants, the following establishments have donated gifts to be awarded:

Pflueger Marine Taxidermy—trophy for the winner.
Fish Unlimited Taxidermy—mount of largest mako caught
Bluewater Tackle Ltd.
Johnny's Tackle Shop, Montauk
Times Square Stores
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Dolphin Restaurant, Montauk
Griffith Marine Electronics
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Heine Marine Electronics, Islip
West Lake Lodge, Montauk
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We are still accepting prize donations and each will be awarded at the ceremonies in the donor's name. You may contact Jim Palumbo at 929-4782 or write him at: 7 Scout Trail, Ridge, NY 11961.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the dock and the award ceremonies on July 12 and 13. Let's all make this an event to be remembered.

CLUB NEWS

NORTH SHORE ANGLERS

The North Shore Anglers is sponsoring its first Annual Weakfish Contest for local North Shore waters (from Smithtown Bay to Shoreham). Entry fee will be $3 per person. Of the entry fees collected, the Club will take 25% for expenses. Of the remaining 75%, prizes will be awarded as follows: 50% - 1st place; 30% - 2nd place, and 20% - third place.

Only 500 tickets will be sold and they will go fast, so don't delay. Tickets must be purchased by 4PM, Friday, July 11, 1980 from one of our official weigh-in stations. The contest will begin Saturday, July 12, 1980 at 6AM. All entered fish must be weighed in at the station where you purchased your ticket before 4PM Sunday, July 13, 1980.

The official weigh-in stations are:

Caraftis Fishing Sta., Barnum Ave., Pt. Jeff, 473-2288.

Charlie's Fisherman's Haven, Rt. 25A, Mt. Sinai, 473-9786.

Dick's Sporting Goods, Rt. 25A., Mt. Sinai, 928-3967

Ralph's Fish Station, Harbor Beach Rd., Mt. Sinai, 473-9685

Sutler Bait & Tackle, W. Broadway, Pt. Jefferson, 473-9685.

NEW OFFICERS FOR FISHING BUGS

The Fishing Bugs of Brooklyn elected the following offices at the pre-summer meeting. Phil Ferrara, President; Tony Fulco, Vice-President; Jack Swanson, Treasure; Sam Ballin, Corresponding Secretary; and Paul Melnick, Secretary.

Pass It On...

NEW ADDITION TO EVINRUDE'S LIBRARY

"The Striper's Odyssey," a 31-minute 16mm movie on the plight of the North American striped bass, is the latest addition to Evinrude's film library. Produced by Landmark Productions, the movie explores the paradox between salt and freshwater stripers.

The anadromous Atlantic striper has become the new kid on the block in southern and midwest reservoirs by filling an open water niche while growing four to five pounds per year. The story of freshwater striped bass is possibly the most exciting introduction to fishing since the outboard motor. "The Striper's Odyssey" takes an entertaining behind-the-scene look at these seemingly different fish with the same name.

The movie skillfully follows noted saltwater fishing journalist, Spider Andresen, in search for today's best striper fishing—from his lifelong fishing grounds off Martha's Vineyard to Percy Priest Lake in Tennessee. At Percy Priest, Bill Dance, a

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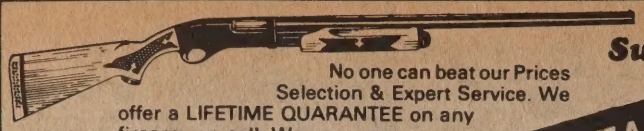

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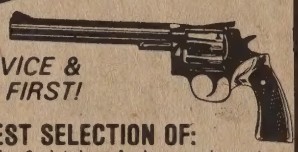

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world class bassfishing professional, takes Spider for his first try at freshwater stripers. The action is fact, the anecdotes humorous, the cinematography excellent and the message as important as any in the outdoors.

"The Striper's Odyssey" is available for organized group showings from Evinrude's free-loan film library. Requests for it and other films should be sent to Solana Studios, 4365 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216.

NMFS LAW ENFORCEMENT ESTABLISHES "HOT LINE"

The Law Enforcement Branch, National Marine Fisheries (NMFS), Gloucester, MA, has announced the installation of a 24-hour, 7-day a week answering service. This service is designed to ensure that Special Agents can respond in a timely manner to situations that occur during off-duty hours, such as evenings, weekends, and holidays. The number to call during these times is (617) 281-1184. You may wish to keep this number available for ready reference.

During routine work hours (8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.) you should continue using normal business directory numbers as a means of communicating with the Law Enforcement Branch.

FINAL REGULATIONS ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Northeast Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, has announced that new regulations for the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery became effective June 13, 1980.

In general, the regulations prescribe measures which include fishing permits, dealer licenses, seasons, quotas, fishing gear restrictions, inspection process, recordkeeping and reporting requirements and catch limits that are deemed necessary for managing the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery.

On March 14, 1980, the NMFS published in the Federal Register (45 FR 16506) proposed rules to amend the existing Atlantic bluein tuna regulations. Nine public hearings were held in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. The Northeast Region, NMFS, has carefully evaluated the record and prepared this final rulemaking. The final regulations:

1. reserve the purse seine quota of school-size tuna for assessment fishing (fishing in which a biological technician is on board to collect information for scientific purposes); 2. establish an allocation system for the purse seine quota both for school-size and giant-size tuna between historical and new entrants; 3. require bluefin tuna dealers, instead of vessel owners or operators, to insert the metal identification tag in giant-size tuna, fill out the catch

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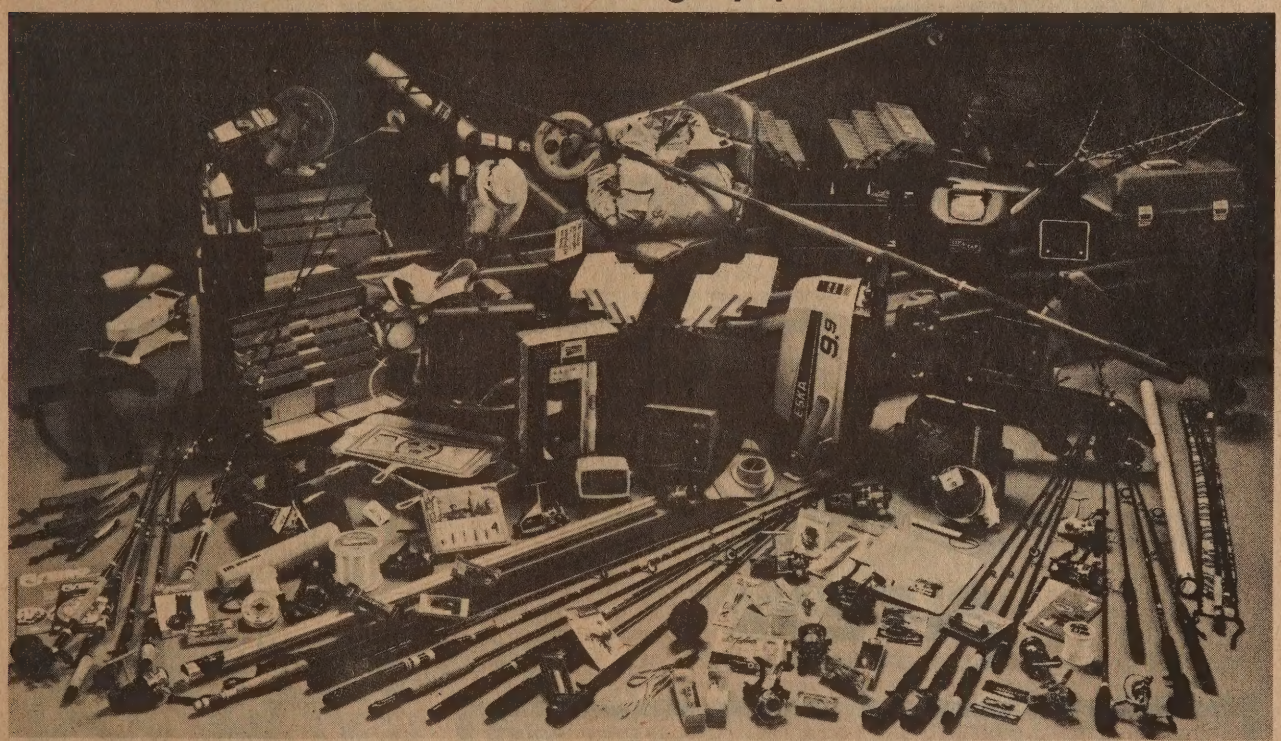

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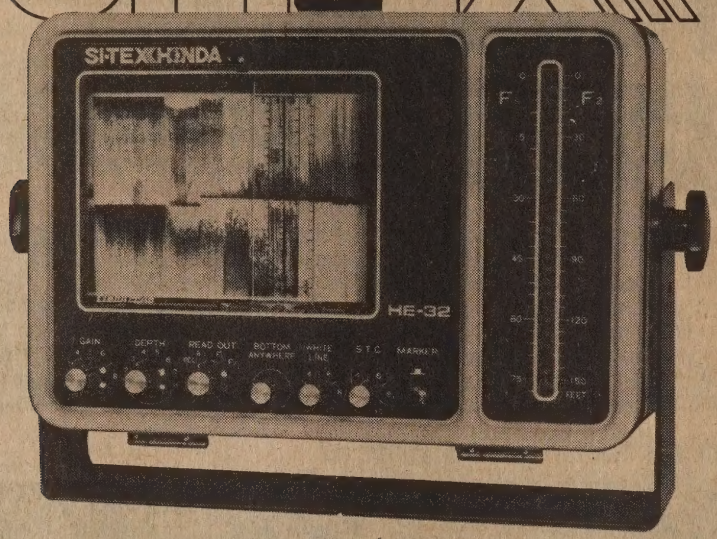

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forms, and mail these forms to the NMFS; 4. eliminate logbooks and reduce reporting burden on vessel owners or operators; 5. provide the opportunity for full use of the handgear quota north of Cape Cod by allowing multiple daily catches of giant-size tuna at certain times during the season; 6. establish a sub-quota of 150 short tons (approximately 400 giant tuna) in the northern area of the handgear fishery for harpoon vessel owners; 7. continue the present regulations concerning the transfer of tuna at sea, i.e., the use of buy boats in the fishery, for an additional year on a provisional basis in order to establish a more complete administrative record concerning the effect of buy boat operations on enforcement; 8. retain the opening date for the purse seine fishery for giant tuna at August 15; and 9. increase the maximum size of school tuna and the minimum size of giant tuna, and use a length measurement rather than a weight measurement to define the various size groups of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

These final amendments to the regulations should result in improved management of the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery which exists along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States. The objectives established when the regulations were first implemented (1975) continue to be applicable today. They are as follows:

a. conserve and enhance the condition of the Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks; b. improve the accuracy of analytical population estimates; c. attain an equitable allocation system among vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna; d. provide simple, accurate reporting procedures; and e. facilitate effective enforcement of regulations governing the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery.

Complete copies of the regulations can be obtained by writing to the Regional Director, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 or by calling (617) 281-3600.

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For the live bait fishermen who use air pumps for aeraton of their live well. We have our new S KYLAR K air pump. 12 volt. This unit puts out 200 cubic inches of air per minute and only draws a ¼ amp.

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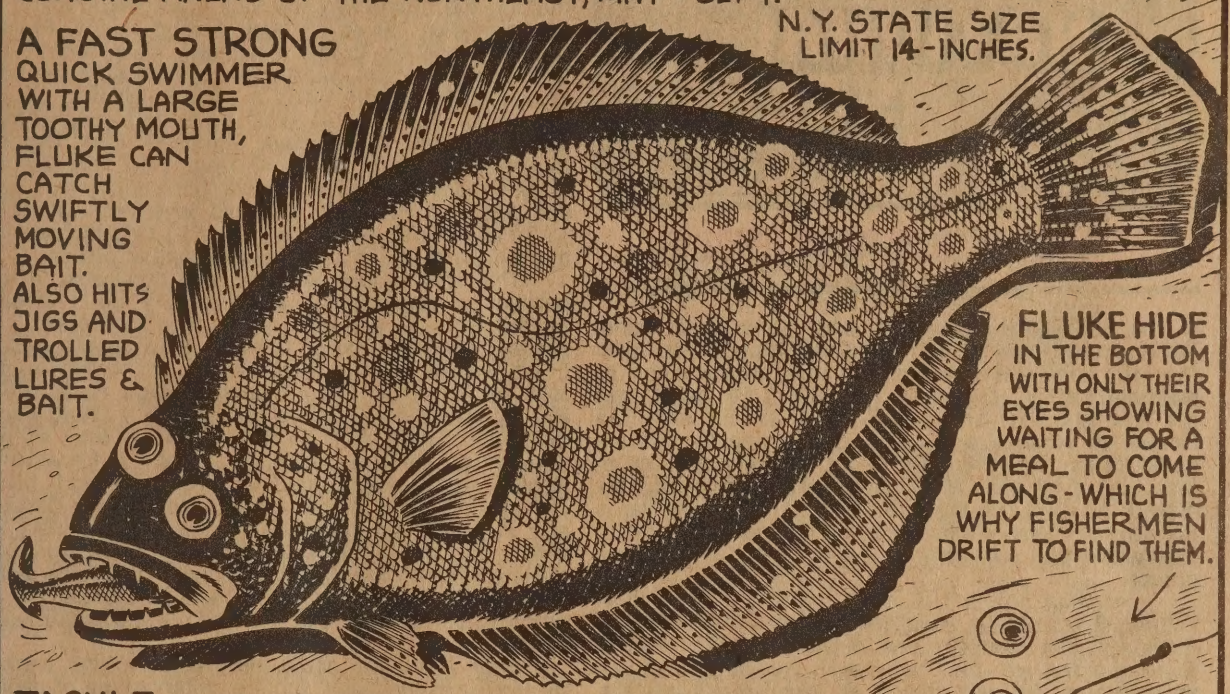
SUMMER FLATTIES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

FLUKE OR SUMMER FLOUNDERS ARE NO DOUBT THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL INSHORE FISH CAUGHT IN THE GOOD 'OLE' SUMMERTIME BY MYRIADS OF PARTYBOAT AND PRIVATE BOAT FISHERMEN DRIFTING LAZILY IN THE SUN. A GOOD FIGHTER AND FINE TABLE FISH, FLUKE INHABIT THE SHALLOW COASTAL AREAS OF THE NORTHEAST, MAY - SEPT.

N.Y. STATE SIZE LIMIT 14-INCHES.

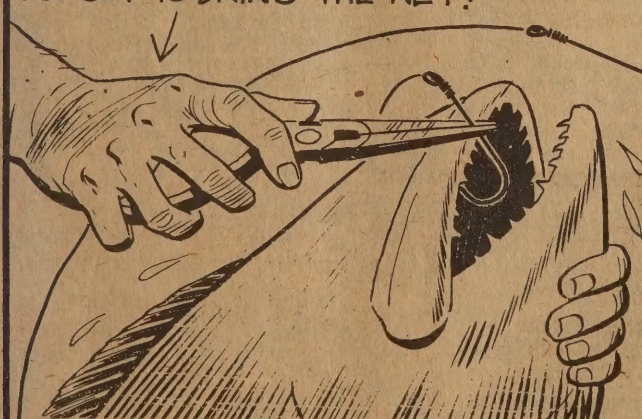
A FAST STRONG QUICK SWIMMER WITH A LARGE TOOTHY MOUTH, FLUKE CAN CATCH SWIFTLY MOVING BAIT. ALSO HITS JIGS AND TROLLED LURES & BAIT.



FLUKE HIDE IN THE BOTTOM WITH ONLY THEIR EYES SHOWING WAITING FOR A MEAL TO COME ALONG - WHICH IS WHY FISHERMEN DRIFT TO FIND THEM.

TACKLE IS CONVENTIONAL BOAT OR SPINNING RODS AND "FLUKE" HOOKS ARE AVAILABLE. MANY ANGLERS USE A FINE WIRE SHORT SHANK HOOK WHICH IS VERY DEADLY AND DOESN'T KILL THE KILLY - AND WILL TAKE OTHER FISH OFTEN IN THE WATERS WITH THE FLUKE.

BEST TOOL AND HOOK DISGORGER IS A PAIR OF NEEDLENOSE PLIERS TO REMOVE A DEEP SWALLOWED HOOK - AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE NET!



THE BAIT MOST WIDELY USED IS A SQUID STRIP AND KILLY COMBINATION - ALSO SPEARING, SANDEELS AND FILLETS OF ANY AND ALL LOCAL FISH.

A NO-HARDWARE BOTTOM RIG FOR FLUKE PICKS UP LESS WEEDS. DROPPER LOOP 6-12 INCHES ABOVE SINKER WITH 3 FT. LEADER

FLUKE WILL COME INTO BLUEFISH BUNKER CHUM AND ALSO WEAKFISH SHRIMP CHUM. "DOORMATS" USUALLY ARE TAKEN LIVE-LINING SAME AS WEAKS & BASS.

"WHEN IN DOUBT USE THE SMALLER HOOK AND NO HARDWARE - FOR MOST ALL FISH," SAY THE EXPERTS.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

THE AMERICAN SPORTFISHING FEDERATION

How would you like to contribute to an organization dedicated to improving sport fisheries—and save some money at the same time? That probably sounds too good to be true, but it's exactly what the American Sportfishing Federation is offering you right now!

Many fishing organizations over the years have deplored the lack of effective political power on the part of the 60,000,000 Americans who do at least some fishing during the year. The basic problem has been that the mass membership organizations want to maintain the tax advantages that would be lost if they got into lobbying—and groups, such as the American League of Anglers and National Coalition for Marine Conservation, that were set up for the very purpose of lobbying have had a difficult time raising non-tax exempt monies. The big spenders who will make large tax exempt donations to a normal fishing organization, just won't put out non-tax exempt gifts to lobbying groups.

With that problem in mind, most of the national fishing organizations have joined with the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) to form a federation that can raise lobbying funds by appealing to the self-interest of the nation's anglers. Instead of just asking for a contribution, the American Sportfishing Federation is providing a real reward for doing so. With most of the leading fishing tackle and accessories manufacturers cooperating, a coupon rebate book has been created. One of these books is sent to each individual in return for a $10 contribution. Upon receiving the book, the angler can purchase any of the specified gear at the best price he can find, and send in the rebate coupon, with receipt and proof of purchase, for the manufacturer's refund.

In all, the coupon book provides ninety-six rebates worth about $700. The largest invididual rebate is on the Lowrance LRG 610A flasher graph: a big $70. By the way, I've used that unit on my Mako 21 and can testify as to its utility. Other large rebates include $25 on the Hummingbird CH 100 chart recorder and $15 on their Super Thirty waterproof depth sounder; $33 on a Hardy graphite fly rod; $20 on a Lamiglas graphite "F" series fly rod; $50 on a 9.9 h.p. Eska outboard; $20 on a Luhr Jensen Auto Electric downrigger; $30 on a Morrow depth sounder with temperature and alarm bell; $20 on Riviera Electroll downriggers, and $50 on the Silvertrol Boss 12-24 electric trolling motor.

Some rebates of particular interest to saltwater anglers include $4 on Plano 777 or 7777 tackle boxes; $6 on any three, unrigged Sevenstrand Kona-Clones; $2 on a Sampo Rod Butt Socket; $3.50 on Gudebrod Teflon coated IGFA Braided Dacron; $5 on a Shakespeare 1980 President II baitcasting reel; $2.50 on a 3,000 yard spool of Trilene XL, XT or TS mono; $5 on any Blue Diamond graphite rod by Eagle Claw; $2 on any eight lures by Ava; $3 on any two Presentation Filleting Knives by Normark; $2 on any Boone saltwater trolling lure; $3 on a Ruff 'n Ready Canvas Fishing Harness; $3 on the Kencor 313 three-piece Longcast surf rod; $3 on the Seaway Elite Rainsuit; $2 on a Luhr Jensen Fish-On rod holder; $3 on the Marine Metal Products Super Saver 12-volt livewell aerator; $2 on six Tony Acetta lures; $2.50 on Shimano ML 40 spinning reel; $3 on Shakespeare Ugly Stik; $2 on Daiwa 50H Sealine conventional reel; $3 on Mark VIII tackle box by Woodstream; $3 on any Ryobi GX skirted spool spinning reel, etc., etc.

These rebates are good through the end of the year and should provide every angler with real savings. However, while the rebates make it easy to get involved with the American Sportfishing Federation, that's not the real reason you should join. Your self-interest should involve not only the monies saved on fishing tackle through the rebate program but, most importantly, the representation gained for sport fishing causes. Frankly, saltwater anglers in the northeast have been rather fortunate in recent years. Our fisheries were being decimated by foreign fleets a decade ago but, because enough of you got off your butts and fought for a 200-Mile Limit, things have improved. Cod, haddock, mackerel, porgies, fluke, whiting, ling, herring and other species have all improved considerably from their low points in the early and mid-Seventies. Of course, we're all worried about the declining striped bass—but overall, we're still in pretty good shape at present.

That rosy picture certainly isn't duplicated in most portions of the country, and probably won't continue around here if present trends aren't reversed. The average fisherman doesn't like to read about problems in his favorite sport, and editors try not to over-emphasize the negative. Nevertheless, George Pazik, Editor and Publisher of the Wisconsin-based "Fishing Facts" magazine had to lay it on the line in his May editorial supporting the American Sportfishing Federation. George noted the sudden rash of anti-sport fishing propaganda being spread by such as Jacques Cousteau and K.I.N.D. (an organization teaching children that fishing is cruel—ignoring the eat or be eaten realities of the underwater world), but conceded that long before such people could get sport fishing banned, it will probably get so poor that we won't worry about saving it!

Pazik's editorial noted the ever-increasing pressure by more knowledgeable anglers; deterioration of habitat; water pollution; cutbacks in fisheries programs; competition from other users of recreational fishing areas, and the acid rain problem that's killing off many lakes. George has noted a decline in Midwest fishing over the past four or five years, and this is reflected in fewer license sales. Admittedly, the problems cited by Pazik are primarily affecting freshwater areas—but that doesn't mean we're exempt. How about the lack of striper spawning success in Chesapeake Bay for a decade? Many believe this is due to either destruction of habitat for the young fish or pesticide problems that are affecting the development of eggs. The Hudson River is being cleaned up at great cost, but we can't eat the fish because of the PCBs deposited there years ago. The high price of fish is bringing more people into the commercial fishery and making it worthwhile for them to fish on small concentrations they wouldn't have bothered with years ago. Dragger and gill net operations are expanding in Great South Bay at the very time that flounders and weakfish are becoming scarcer. With the price of fuel escalating, many draggers are now working closer to shore on the stocks coveted by recreational fishermen. To top it all, the National Marine Fisheries Service downgrades sport fishing because the political pressure just isn't there.

The list of problems could go on and on—and the bottom line is that recreational fishermen are powerless to stop them unless they unite. Only occasionally can they get worked up enough to fight for a particular issue. The 200-Mile Limit was one, and the recent attempt by the Department of Energy to ban weekend fishing in a gas crisis was another. However, the latter incident is a good illustration of how the fisherman loses out by not being organized. Despite the great numbers of citizens involved, only fishermen were singled out for a virtual ban on their activities.

The American Sportfishing Federation intends to attack this problem at both the state and Federal levels. Indeed, the state federations will be formed first and

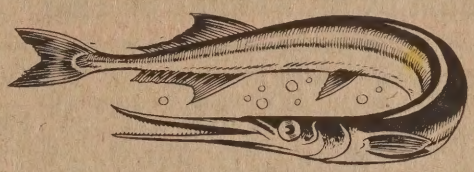
provide the nucleus for the national federation. The federation will not threaten or usurp the influence of any existing sport fishing organization. Rather, it is working with the clubs to provide the backbone of the organization. Clubs signing up at least twenty-five percent of their members will be given a vote and asked to participate in the formation of the state federation when sufficient funds have been generated in that state. A Board of Directors will be formed, adopt by-laws and operate as an autonomous affiliate of the national organization. In other words, it will be up to each state board to select the issues they wish to concentrate on. After fifteen to twenty states' Boards of Directors are formed, a national assembly meeting will be called to elect a national board. As soon as possible, the Federation intends to open a lobbying office in Washington, D.C. Hopefully, each state federation will also maintain an office in the State Capitol.

The official purposes of the American Sportfishing Federation (a not-for-profit organization having the right to lobby at all levels for political action) are as follows:

1. To protect and preserve the nation's fishery.
2. To collect and provide a source of information for data and issues relating to sport fishing.
3. To engage in nonpartisan research, study and analysis for the benefit of the general public on questions affecting the public interest in the nation's fishery.
4. To represent sport fishing enthusiasts and other members of the general public interested in recreational fishing.
5. To promote government policy which recognizes and fosters a healthy American fishery for sport fishing enthusiasts.
6. To assist other charitable, educational or social welfare organizations in the conduct of similar activities.
7. To establish in the main office or elsewhere all departments and activities necessary to carry out the purpose of the corporation.
8. To engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes, except as restricted herein.

If you're concerned about the future of our fisheries, why not put your $10 check in an envelope now and send it to American Sportfishing Federation, P.O. Box 426, Chicago, Illinois 60690. You'll get your rebate coupon book (good through December 31) and a "Personal Legislative Action Certificate," with information on how to contact your Federal elected officials. After the state is organized, the same info will be provided for state officials. You may well find an application form in this issue, as the outdoor media is cooperating fully with the tackle industry and the clubs in trying to get this operation off the ground. Steering committee volunteers willing to help organize their clubs or areas are urgently needed. If you're willing to help, include a note to that effect when you send in your check.

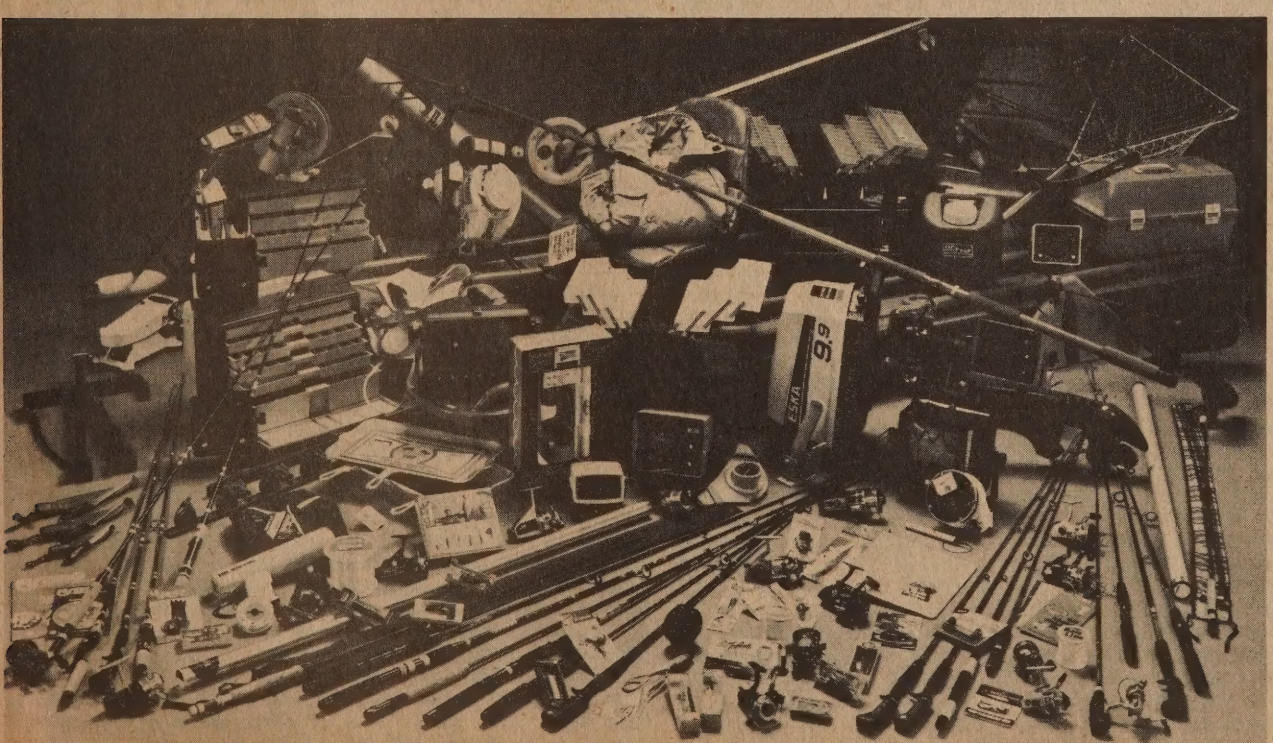
The opportunity to turn the tide in the downward course of our fisheries is at hand. Without political power we'll continue to slip back, but with your support the American Sportfishing Federation can provide the leverage to ensure that fisheries problems receive a high priority and that sport fishing is recognized as an important activity at both the state and Federal levels.



SURF FISHING:
WORKING THE ROCKS

(Continued from page 17.)

than when fishing from unobstructed sandy beaches. The few drawbacks resulting from these added complications are far outweighed by the benefits to be gained. The marine growth covering these areas in itself would attract game fish from the barren sandy beaches. Add to this the cover provided to nervous game fish and the multitudes of crabs, eels, worms, mussels and baitfish which abound and one can readily see that these areas will constantly reward the surfman who makes the effort to learn and improve on the ideas described here.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN, when the weakfish in the Great South Bay go into their spawning ritual on the shallow flats and can be seen by one and all. Theoretically, in late May or early June when this occurs, the fish should be very vulnerable to fishing. Yet, many times they will ignore man's best imitations. Nonetheless, they are still vulnerable to a net

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

WEAKFISH ON THE SPAWNING GROUNDS

and thus, each year at about this time, sport fishermen witness mass harvests of the weakfish by gillnetters.

TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, a recent letter from Max Goldstein. Max displays his anger about the situation—and who can blame him. It can be very demoralizing to see spawning fish removed from the water—especially if you are a sportsman and not a netter or trophy killer. "I read 'Fish Talk' in Issue #11, March 13, 1980 regarding gillnetting of weakfish in the Great South Bay. Approximately three years ago a law went into effect against gillnetting in the Islip area. It was reversed by a judge after one month. (ED. NOTE: The judge ruled that fishing practices was the jurisdiction of the State of New York and that the Islip town law was not appropriate.) I and several of my fishing buddies have encountered situations similar to that described by Joe Amaifitana. We were in five boats spotting fish feeding or spawning on top at the Heckscher flats. No sooner did we cut our engines and before we could make a cast, a commercial netter circled one of our boats at full speed, dropping the net around one of the boats. Of course words and profanity were exchanged. In fact, one of the netters climbed over his rail and down onto the front deck of one of our boats to fight with the fella in the encircled boat. We called the Islip town police on the radio and waited for them to appear—which never happened. I have watched the netters KILL the weakfish when they are seen rolling. You know at that time they are mating and will not take lures. Why the big talk about Chesapeake bass being taken undersized, thus not allowing spawning, when we can't take care of our own area? In L.I.F. Issue #8, February 21, 1980, you mention the public hearing at Babylon Town Hall regarding the fish traps in Montauk, dragging in the bays, and gill net regulation. That is the last I heard about gill netting. What happened? Why wasn't gill netting mentioned in a discussion of the events of the meeting? Your views as written in your 'Fish Talk' column are different. You claim that biological reasons are weak and that legislation can't be passed. Since weakfish spawn throughout their range from North Carolina to Rhode Island. Again, I repeat: why do we try to impose bass legislation in the Chesapeake and make the excuse that we are not the only ones doing wrong on the weakfish? Don't tell your readers of L.I.F. how sportsmanship may be the result of releasing a single fish, when at the same time telling me that nothing can be done about the weakfish gillnetting. I have seen a complete school in the hundreds killed while spawning. It makes me sick! I don't mean to berate you. Instead, I look up to you as being foremost in sport fishing to take up the banner as your magazine's done in the past on other issues. In ending, may I also say that I live on the waterfront and see that most of the gillnetters are not fishing for a living, but they are people who buy seasonal licenses to pick up bucks. Tomorrow they might steal hub-caps if it becomes profitable. They are locusts. They strip the resources and move in."

POWERFUL LETTER. Max, you write with emotional power and I'm sure that many of our readers will read your thoughts with great interest and support. There is much to agree with in your letter; yet for me, there remains a number of places that I feel I must comment. In commenting, I do not intend to be critical of you, Max, or of any of our fishermen as individuals. So, if I appear to be critical—and I do not wish to be—I am criticizing attitudes, habits, and customs...not individuals. First, we agree. Many commercial harvesters care very little about the species and the habitats that support them in their way of life. Unfortunately, this holds true for many of the full-timers as well as the fly-by-nighters and that's especially unfortunate because the full-timers, many who are descendents of long family lines of fishermen, should know better. After listening to a pile of rubble about how they were conservation minded, they showed their real colors when the 200-Mile Limit legislation went into effect. The dollar signs blazed clear in the sky. We are no longer impressed by cries of conservation. We now understand that they indeed intend to strip the resources and move on to catch something else. Many commercial men have recently admitted to this in public.

FLY-BY-NIGHTERS are the worst. We again agree that the quick-buck expert is the most despicable of all. In short, then, we would like to see the gillnetting of weakfish in the Great South Bay come to an end. However, legislation of this kind cannot be defended on biological grounds. Now, I'm a great lover of the weakfish and it saddens me that I must say that. Nonetheless, it is true. However, we have said that it is our opinion that such legislation can be defended on the basis of preventing significant social conflict and as a means of reducing navigation hazards. However, many of the fishermen in our area have taken a very emotional stance on this. Based upon visual experiences similar to yours, Max, they insist that legislation must be passed on biological grounds. Thus, we have the catch 22. Legislators will not pass the bills into law on biological grounds because no expert can be found to defend it on that basis, and fishermen won't take the law under any other terms. Isn't that silly. First, why fight what the experts say, especially since there is universal agreement. Second, are any more weakfish saved by a bill that's defended with biology as opposed to one that's defended on sociological and navigational grounds? Of course not, and we could pass legislation quickly that would significantly reduce the inshore weakfish gillnetting if we could only overcome our emotional posturing! Me, I'll take the gill net laws any way I can get them. I learned a long time ago that there is no pride in losing: only in winning. As Vince Lombardi said: "Winning isn't everything, it's the ONLY thing!"

BEYOND THIS. In fact, we believe that inshore commercial activities in general need restriction. This should be the territory of the recreational fisherman. You are rightfully upset from witnessing a large kill of weakfish by gill nets on the flats, but what about the hundreds of fish traps that do the same thing in Peconic Bay. Are they less important? What about bay dragging that upsets the normal plant and animal distributions in the bottom sediments. Is successful spawning possible when the habitat is in upheaval?

OVERTURN OF LAW WAS RIGHT! The judge was correct to overturn the Islip town law, and in so doing, he is protecting you. There are certain matters that come under the jurisdiction of the states and others that belong to the towns. If we allow towns to take the responsibilities that rightfully belong to the state and vice versa, then we are giving our blessing to do that on all matters and not just weakfish and gill nets. This is an important point of law. If we are to remove the gill nets, we must do it correctly.

BASS AND WEAKS! It is easy for us to discriminate between bass and weakfish because the bass apparently spawn in a very few areas w hile the weaks spawn everywhere they swim. Thus, if fishermen in one area take up to, or maybe more than, ninety

percent of any given year class of bass before it migrates, then indeed this could represent a serious threat to the vitality of that fishery. I agree that in times of abundance it doesn't matter, but right now when the stocks of Chesapeake fish are down, this has serious impact on the coastal fishery. Remember, I'm not talking about the extinction of the bass, but rather the great economic and recreational importance of the species up and down the coast. Indeed, it is important to protect the bass on the spawning grounds—especially now. I also agree that it is important to protect the weakfish on the spawning grounds, but more as an ideal rather than a necessity. That is, I believe all species should be undisturbed on the spawning grounds and harvest delayed until the bulk of the spawning is over. In fact, to avoid destroying millions of eggs, it would probably be a good idea to restrict commercial harvest to areas away from the spawning grounds for many species.

NEED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. What we really need for weakfish is a sound management plan that would apply up and down the coast that would attempt to prevent overharvesting and keep the stocks stable. I seriously doubt that it is possible, since the species is intrinsically very cyclical. However, management would prevent excessive early harvests and thus good year classes would last longer for both sport and commercial fishermen. The positive result of a year class lasting longer would be a short period in-between peaks of the cycles. Can we do this? Why not! The public should ask for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council to develop such a plan. The weakfish, at least adults, are an ocean species and many winter far out on the Continental Shelf. This alone should bring the species under the protection of the Councils.

WE AGREE. It is a sad thing that so many beautiful fish must be killed during spawning in front of the eyes of adoring fishermen. It is worse if a fisherman is hurt by confrontation. It is worse to neglect the species and ignore pleas for the development of a sound management plan. If the Great South Bay were the only spawning area for this species, it would be a snap to pass legislation on biological grounds. But the sad fact is that the weakfish spawns in so many places that the events in Great South Bay are only a drop in the bucket.

FISHING AT NIGHT

(Continued from page 21.)

select twelve to sixteen inch eels which will catch any size bass and are easily swallowed. At times, I've specifically fished much larger eels in hopes of catching bigger stripers, but never noticed a bit of difference in the size of the fish hooked. On the other hand, a very large eel is more likely to be toyed with—and may even discourage a relatively lethargic fish.

Just about everyone fishes areas that are suitable for casting eels. All bay areas with a good tidal flow are possibilities, as are the rocky shore lines of Long Island Sound and the jetties and inlets of the Jersey and South Shore coastlines. In my experience, eels have been strictly a nighttime bait which are, at times, still effective for a little while after dawn. On the other hand, there was a year, about a decade ago, when some of the South Shore sharpies did a real job on big bass along the Rockaway jetties by casting live eels during the middle of the day. Over the years, they've also proven effective during the day on Rota Wreck. Of course, the present abundance of bluefish makes use of eels in the daytime almost an academic question. Bluefish aren't normally as active at night, and I've rarely had too much difficulty with them. By the way, those bluefish do provide a use for any dead eels you end up with at night. If you're not going to convert them into eel skins, freeze them up and feed them to the choppers the next time you go bluefishing.

Drifting lures for stripers isn't practiced in many areas, but it can be a deadly technique. Inlet casters have been doing this with bucktail jigs for years. They simply cast across tide and let the bucktail (dressed with Uncle Josh pork rind) bounce along the bottom until the line straightens out. In boat fishing, a three-way swivel rig (similar to the eel setup) is employed and the bucktail is drifted through likely areas. If the bass are feeding on small bait, this method will frequently outfish all others. It's proved a real killer in such areas as Plum Gut, The Race and the Sluiceway. Since the jig must stay off the bottom, you don't want a heavy jig. Yet, light jigs are too small and are made with hooks that won't hold big bass on heavy tackle. The solution is the plastic-headed Driftweight developed by J & B Tackle, of Niantic, Connecticut. I'm sure this technique will work equally well in other rough bottom areas with strong tides. It may well be worth a try over mussel bed areas around the inlets.

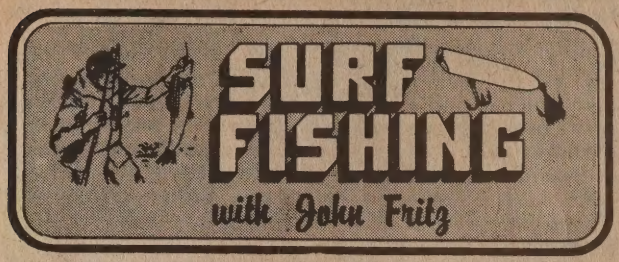
Casting lures at night was once a deadly technique, but it's faded considerably over the years. Not only are bass scarcer, but they seem to be feeding deeper. With the exception of a few hot surf areas, surfacing bass have become unusual these days—even at night. There's no need to go into the sad decline of the striper in recent years, as I'm sure that everyone is familiar with that story. However, even in the early Seventies, when bass were still abundant, it seemed that the surface plugging for big fish was becoming tougher each year. Bob Pond, famous fisherman and Atom lure creator, has theorized that with increasing pressure and better equipped anglers, the "easy" surface fish have pretty much been caught out. Those that tended to feed deep have been harder to find, with the result that more have survived. If this is actually the case, that would mean that stripers with deep feeding traits would be the primary spawners and would produce more bass with similar traits!

Those of us who used to do nothing else but cast for bass certainly hope that isn't what we have to face in the future. There are still opportunities for anchoring up at night and casting bucktails for big bass, as Captain John DeMaio proves every fall at Montauk. However, tales of striper catches on surface plugs beyond the surf line are few and far between these days. There's nothing quite as exciting as fishing on a flat calm night and listening to the slaps of feeding bass, or watching the swirls come up on a moonlit night. All the areas where eels can be cast are good for plug casting. It's hard to beat the Atom 40 (or Junior Atom for spinning) in this fishing; but other good choices are the Danny Surface Swimmer, Stan Gibbs bottle plug and darter, Lineside Seeker II swimmer, and La-Zee darter/swimmer, Creek Chub Pikie and the various minnow plugs (Rapala, Rebel, Cordell RedFin, etc.). Schoolies often work their way back into bays and over the flats. Listen for them popping at night and get after them with very small swimmers and Mirrolures cast with light spinning tackle.

The use of baits other than live eels at night has declined over the years, as the schoolies which provided most of the action in this type of fishing, faded away. Drifting sand worms on a three-way swivel rig is still a good bet in bay areas, and free-lined sand worms often produce well at night among the rocks on the North Shore. A more effective technique is to troll it very slowly on a long line by rowing a small boat—or using an electric motor. There is still some skimmer clam chumming done in South Shore bays, but it's nothing like the bonanza days of the late Sixties. Many anglers objected to the huge catches often made in that fashion, but that can't take away from the fact that clam chumming can be very good sport. The lightest tackle can be used and the fish aren't encumbered in any way.

There are many ways to fish at night, and they all provide their unique pleasures. The relative solitude and the greater possibility of a big bass are reasons enough to keep me coming back, but there's also something much more exciting about operating in the dark. Give it a try this year. It may take awhile to get your bearings, but you may never want to go back out under that hot sun again!

There is a considerable difference between fishing the rocky shores of Long Island Sound as compared to the south side of Montauk Point. Because of the distinct differences in surf conditions encountered in these two areas, tackle and techniques will vary somewhat, so each section will be treated separately.



WORKING THE ROCKS
★PART TWO★

As can be expected, waters sheltered from the direct onslaught of the ocean can be fished more leisurely and safely with lighter tackle. Unless there are unusually large fish present, nine or ten foot medium action rods are preferred by most surfmen who ply the rocky coastlines. Reels equivalent to the Penn 710 and spooled with twelve to fifteen pound test line will allow the angler to cast a large selection of swimming type lures. Heavyweight lures such as the two-and-a-half to three ounce Darters and bottle plugs are used infrequently in many rocky areas of the Sound. There are occasions when these plugs are required; but more on that later. As a general rule, floating plugs such as the Rebel, RedFins and Hellcats are employed in swifter currents with Atoms, Danny, and Super Strike metal lip swimmers used when the currents are weak and more action is required from the plug itself.

Except on rare occasions, sinking plugs or lures that are allowed to swim close to the bottom are avoided. The reason why this type lure is seldom used is obvious, but when all else fails the added depth gained by these lures can make the difference between success or failure. To point out one particular instance, one need only to look at the success enjoyed by surfmen using bucktails under the Light at Montauk, while anglers using the standard darters and bottle plugs attain slim pickings.

Lures which travel below the surface, but do not sink too rapidly, will allow a greater margin of error when fishing these obstructed areas. Rather than using, say, a sinking Rebel, it would be better to try a weighted RedFin. If success is achieved, well and good; but if not, the sinker can still be tried. If the choice is to be bucktails, an angler might be better advised to try a Whiptail or eelworm first, for the curved head of this lure will allow the lure to ride higher with less chance of fouling the bottom.

On most occasions, the floating plugs are cast up-tide and permitted to swing in a lazy arc to the caster's front. Many times the strike will occur shortly after the plug swings and begins working against the current. When submerged or partially submerged boulders can be detected, the angler should attempt to swing the plug so that it passes in close proximity to these likely hiding places of lurking bass. Do not be satisfied by making one or two passes at a promising rock. Be persistent—present the lure at different angles and at varying speeds. This persistence is especially helpful if an angler knows from previous trips that he has taken fish from a particular rock, for very often the vacant spot is readily occupied by another fish. If a certain location has attracted game fish in the past it will continue to do so as long as the bottom formations do not change drastically.

Along the beaches of Long Island Sound most surfmen prefer to work along the shore line rather than venture to a distant rock and remain stationary. Either method has its advantages, whereas more area can be covered by working the shore line, the deeper waters off the beach can be tried from that isolated perch in hopes of enticing fish passing by or lying off the beach.

A suggested routine for working a limited rocky area such as found at Shagwong could include the following. Arrival should be timed to coincide with the start of the ebb tide. Remember, this can take place an hour or two after the stated time of high water and can be influenced by strong winds. Start casting at the up-tide end of the rocks with plugs that will take full use of the weak currents found at the beginning of a tide. If small bait is prevalent or small fish expected, rely on small plugs such as the Spin Atom, broken-back RedFins and Rebels, or the small Danny swimmers. The addition of a teaser will greatly enhance the chances of success if tiny sand eels and similar bait are present. Continue working this type plug along the beach until the other end is reached or the current gains sufficient speed to cause the plug to dig too deeply or wiggle unnaturally. At this time, a change to five inch Rebels, RedFins or Rapalas is suggested; then methodically work back through the rocks until the fish are located or the original starting point is reached. Depending on how fast the tide reaches peak strength or how quickly the area is worked in the later stages of the tide, when current flow is normally the swiftest, a change to Hellcats will provide a different action.

By mentally establishing a pattern beforehand, a given section of beach can be worked thoroughly. With each pass, assorted swimming plugs can be offered covering fresh waters, for as the tide recedes the angler is able to wade further out thereby reaching areas beyond earlier casting range.

There are many other plugs which can be used in these situations. When greater distance is required, the smaller versions of the darter and to a lesser extent, the bottle plugs can be tried; but the lips of these plugs become damaged from frequent contact with the rocks.

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Another very productive lure which is used less and less these days is the eel skin plug. When fishing areas described so far the favored combination is the eel skin attached to the Spin Atom. When larger bait is prevalent—most likely during the autumn months—larger skins can be rigged to the Junior Atom plug.

Most often the choice of white, yellow, or silver plugs will ensure success; but occasionally it is necessary to use a darkly colored plug, especially on nights that are overcast or without a bright moon. Which brings me to the point that most successful journeys for game fish are undertaken at night, with the times of sunrise and sunset slightly less productive. During those half-light periods at dawn and dusk, a popping plug is very effective in luring a hesitant bass from the depths. As a general rule, a popper is worked at a more leisurely pace for stripers than for the more aggressive bluefish. For that truly tantalizing action, a pencil popper jerked slowly among the rocks is the choice of many veteran surfmen.

In contrast to the normally gentle waters of the Sound, the shore line under the Montauk bluffs rarely provides peaceful or uneventful fishing. Even when the winds are calm, the offshore ocean swells rushing over the protruding shelves are cause for concern and vigilance—but most of all, sure-footedness. The further one pushes off the beach in order to reach the more productive rocks near the dropoff, the more one has to be wary of being bowled over by these powerful waves. Even when the comparative safety of a flat-topped rock is attained, the force on incoming waves will often knock an angler from his perch. Fishermen using these outer rocks should be watchful of each approaching wave. On many occasions, a series of relatively low waves will give the angler a false sense of security; but as veteran surfmen realize, interspersed among the average waves are two or three larger breakers which can catch a complacent angler unaware. For the adventuresome, this presents little more than a nuisance which must be coped with at certain times. Naturally the use of a wet suit is essential if one desires to be reasonably comfortable.

This extensive area covers several miles from the Lighthouse to Ditch Plains, with the greater part accessible only by foot over ankle busting rocks the size of bowling balls. The trek can be initiated from the west by leaving the car at Ditch Plains or from the east at the Lighthouse parking lot. Access through the Air Force Base is an on-again, off-again situation susceptible to the whims of the Base Commander. For the angler who desires to fish alone away from the maddening crowds this is the place, for few fishermen will make the arduous journey into the farthest reaches of the area which, by the way, contains some of the finest fishing grounds on the entire coast.

Generally speaking, heavy equipment is employed here. When weighty plugs such as darters or Polaris poppers are used, medium action rods are chosen. On the other hand, when the more appropriate RedFins, Rebels, and metal lipped swimmers are the choice rods with lighter tips are favored. Substantial reels equal to the Crack 300 or possibly the Penn 704 spooled with fifteen to twenty pound test line are needed to withstand the dunking and excessive pressures needed to steer large fish from taking off in the wrong direction.

Plugs used during the hours of darkness range from the two-and-a-half ounce darter to seven inch Rebel type plugs into metal lipped swimmer models such as the Atom 40s. Slow retrieves keeping the lure at or near the surface is the normal technique applied in the area. When fishing the deeper waters of the coves which intermittently dot this region, greater leeway is presented for the use of deeper swimming lures. Occasionally when surf conditions prevent an angler from working the front ledges, success can be attained by choosing a point from which the sides of the coves may be worked. When a rough surf prevails, the baitfish will often seek refuge in these deeper and calmer waters.

During daylight hours, popping plugs are the overall choice of many surfmen here. If greater reach is necessary the Polaris or pencil popper is chosen for the increased distance these plugs can be cast. If it is necessary to use metal lures, the retrieve should be started as soon as the lure hits the water and continued at a brisk pace without permitting the tin to sink. Flatter-shaped tins tend to ride higher in the water; therefore their use should be considered before choosing a tin such as the J-8 which sinks quickly.

The use of teasers in this area is gaining popularity as it is everywhere else along the ocean front. Streamer flies tied ahead of the plug are the favorite although the Red Gill in its smallest size has proven successful for an increasingly greater number of surfmen.

At first glance, bottom fishing from the beach in rocky areas would seem to be out of the question. This would be true under the bluffs of Montauk where the strong rush of breaking waves over the shallow ledges will bury the terminal gear into the nearest crevice. The coves in this area and the gentler regions mentioned previously are conducive to productive bottom fishing if a few modifications are made to the terminal gear and an angler is willing to sacrifice a few hooks and sinkers.

Fish finder rigs with a cork is the usual choice even though other surfmen advocate the use of the surf and pompano rigs. The method of presenting the baited hook is less important than the type sinker used. Pencil sinkers are the overwhelming favorite of those who fish such areas consistently. When the bottom is sparsely littered with rocks or includes clear areas interspersed on the sea-bed, one might get by with the use of a bank sinker. At any rate if the sinker is attached with a lighter breaking test line, a snagged rig will result in just the loss of some lead and not the entire terminal gear. Another practice used to prevent snagged lines when a check of the bait is necessary, is to hold the rod up high and reel in as fast as possible preventing the gear from dragging the bottom.

Fishing these rocky areas is a bit more difficult

(Continued on page 13.)

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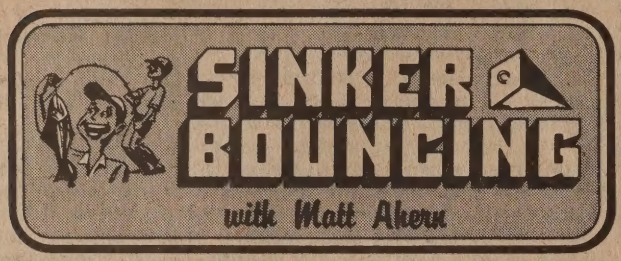

★FLUKE TIPS★

Three nice fluke and two beautiful weakfish lay in the bucket. "See," I said to Al Dunn, "I told you fishing that shallow water would turn the trick. It's one of those things," I explained, anticipating his question. "...one of those things a guy picks up over the years. I don't recall who put me wise, it goes back so far...Artie Leidecker, maybe, or Nick Hauck...I'm not sure." With that, Al cranked the outboard to life and we headed toward the fishing station. "Well," he said, "it doesn't much matter. It's a neat trick."

It was—and it is. But for awhile there, it was catch-as-catch-can.

Al and I had spent several hours drifting for fluke in Shinnecock Inlet's East Channel that particular mid-August morning, and to be absolutely truthful, we hadn't raised a fish in all that time—not even a sea robin. This was one trip that carried the threat of turning into a real bummer. Our neighboring skiff fishermen had recognized the handwriting on the wall, and, one by one, they had gone off in search of greener pastures, leaving us to our chosen fate.

And to add insult to injury, it was as hot and as uncomfortable as a mid-August morning can be.

"Let's get out of here," Al complained as he mopped a sweaty brow with the back of a forearm. "It's so damn hot, I can't breathe! The closer we drift to shore, the hotter it gets. Phew! We'd be better off casting from the beach—at least we'd get some breeze."

And with those words, I heard the sound of a distant bell which chimed from the far reaches of a long-forgotten corridor of my mind. Faint it was, but still audible. I became alert in an instant. If we fellows want to come home with the fish on tough days, we better hear that bell when it sounds. There's no second time around.

"You called it, Al," I said, holding up a hand to stymie the expected flow of questions. "I'll tell you later, but for now take us in about fifty feet from shore and I'll get the anchor over. You know, I'll bet we never once came near those fish."

I knew Al was bursting with questions, but good fishing buddy that he is, he brought us in to the required distance without a murmur, and I slipped the anchor overboard and snubbed it close.

"Now," I said, "you earned first crack. Use one of those small killies and cast it almost on the beach and reel it back—slowly. Don't jig...just a nice, quiet, slow retrieve."

Before I could select my own killie, Al hooked into a monstrous sea robin...practically on the beach in about two feet of water. Then close to the same spot, I nailed a throwback fluke on my first cast. But that was all the action we had. Close, I told Al, but no cigar. We tried several minutes longer and then I paid out the anchor rope and let the current carry the skiff about twenty-five feet, and snubbed it short again.

This time was a little better. My second cast produced our first keeper fluke—about seventeen inches. And this fish, so help me, couldn't have been in over a foot of water. And then wonder of wonders, Al hooked into a good-sized blue which shocked us with its viciousness. But after a runoff of nearly one hundred feet, it leaped from the water, twirling and twisting end over end, only to crash against the line on its second jump, breaking free. After we calmed down, Al hooked into the first of our two weakfish. But that was it.

Another dropback on the anchor and Al nailed one more fluke—a keeper...again in extremely shallow water. I recall one of my killies overshooting the target and landing smack on the beach, whereupon it was immediately seized by our second weak the instant it entered the water.

Unquestionably, all our fish were feeding in water less than two feet in depth. And this was the important part: they were feeding on small killies—and small killies only. Nothing else would tempt them...and we tried various baits and combinations until we were blue in the face, but the action came only with small killies. We finished the day with those three nice fluke and two beautiful weakfish as mentioned earlier. (See photo.)

Okay, I'll admit it took us two hours or better to catch those five fish, but if that bell hadn't sounded, I'm sure we would have gotten no action at all. So—next time you're fluke fishing inshore and not doing as well as expected, try approaching the shore line as we did, casting your bait into extremely shallow water and slowly working it back to you. And remember: use small killies!

Incidentally, if you wish, you can use a 1/0 Sproat with those small killies. I usually don't bother to change over, but Artie Leidecker says doing so makes the fisherman more likely to use smaller baits—a sort of psychological thing. Maybe he's got something...a kind of fit the bait to the hook.

Over the years it has seemed to me that the exclusive use of small killies has been the answer to many fluke fishermen's problems. I can easily remember slow fluke-fishing days during those times of plenty—say fifty years ago. (Contrary to what you may have been told, we did have our slow days, too.) A slow day 'way back then would be considered as any day a guy caught fewer than six fish. There weren't many trips of that calibre to be sure (my poorest day produced four fish), but we did have them. And it was then when a sinker bouncer had to try something to get those fish feeding again.

This wasn't as difficult as it may seem, for our mental attitude toward fluke fishing was different than it is today. During those times, we fellows never considered the possibility that our fish weren't there. We believed always that the fish were available but they were merely putting on the finicky act from time to time—just as they do today. In fact, when I suffer the pangs of a poor fluke fishing trip these days, I never blame the fish—I blame it on me. There is something I'm sure I should be doing but which I'm not. Being brought up in the old school, I shall believe this to my last breath. I've seen it proven so too many times. If you doubt this, check your local old-timer. Listen and take heart. Become a convert.

I readily recall my first experience with this lack of fish in the midst of plenty, although the occurrence happened years ago—along about 1928 or 1929 when I was a fourteen or fifteen-year-old tad. And lest you think otherwise, fluke fishing those days was truly fluke fishing. I say this not to brag (after all, we fishermen of the time had nothing to do with the wealth of fish then available. We just happened to be at the right place at the right time and can take no credit for it.) But as mentioned before, all was not beer and skittles, for we did have our difficulties.

It doesn't take much to remember this fluke story of the past.

Artie Leidecker and I (we've been buddies since 1920) had planned a Jamaica Bay fluke fishing trip to that area now spanned by the Marine Parkway Bridge. At the time, this particular region was a fluke fisherman's paradise. A fellow could do no wrong. If he couldn't catch fluke there, he might just as well have taken up golf, or some other sane sport...it was that easy.

There was nothing to it. Place a killie-baited rig on bottom, jig once or twice, and the chances were

excellent you were going to come up with a fluke. No ifs, ands, or buts. The fish weren't large, averaging a pound-and-a-half, but for two fish-happy kids they certainly were fun to catch. And if you were lucky, maybe you might latch on to a five or six pounder.

I remember we rented a rowboat from one of Canarsie's two fishing stations (fifty cents, no deposit), and away we went with a day's supply of killies (ten cents), cheerfully knocking ourselves out at the oars in our haste to get to those fluke. If you are a dedicated fisherman, you are aware of the exquisite thrill of anticipation that was our lot during that long haul to Barren Island. There's nothing in the sport of fishing which can match that feeling.

But sad to say, it turned out to be one of those days when we should have "stood" in bed, as the saying has it.

We hadn't drifted five feet before we each hooked a fluke—but that was all the action we had. And we tried—oh, how we tried. We rowed our arms off, making drifts here and there, with not another fish to show for our efforts.

I imagine this aggravation continued for over an hour until we noticed one of those old-fashioned "one lung" naptha launches drifting by, with each of the three fishermen aboard pulling one fluke after another. I felt like crying. What were they doing that we weren't?

I suppose we never would have found out if those three fishermen hadn't taken pity on two near to tears kids. They ran their launch alongside us and began with the questions. We immediately blurted out our tale of woe when asked the time-honored "How ya doin'?"

The outcome was that those kind fishermen told us to anchor our rowboat securely and step aboard the launch with our tackle and bait and they'd show us what we were doing wrong.

Which they did.

What we were doing wrong was simple enough. We weren't using small killies. Those fishermen said they had discovered many years before that there were times when fluke can only be coaxed with small killies, and nothing else.

Of course, being hot-shot kids who thought we knew all there was to know about fishing, Artie and I didn't put much faith in what we were being told—but the proof was there. The instant we put a small killie (one inch) on bottom, we got a fluke. And there was no end to the fishing until just before the tide reached high-water slack and began to drop. Then it was right back to regular-sized killies.

From then on, over the years, Artie and I never forgot and we often experimented with small killies whenever we encountered slow fishing days. Many times, these smaller baitfish saved the day for us. But there were (and are) times when even small killies won't work—which means only that there is yet something we must learn.

Experience has shown that tidal conditions have much to do with the sucess or failure of this experiment. We found over the years that if the fluke took only small killies on an incoming tide, they would continue to do so until that tide changed. Once it began to ebb, the fluke would revert to usual baits. The same applied if small killies worked on an outgoing tide. Once that tide changed, however, small killies no longer produced fluke exclusively.

Why this should be is, of course, anyone's guess, but I have found these tips accurate for fifty years, and I know they are quite likely to turn the tables the next time fluke put on their finicky act.

It therefore behooves fluke fishermen to keep these tips in mind and use them when opportunities present themselves. And don't forget—use those small killies whenever conditions call for them. They work!

The key to successful fluke fishing can be found in one word. Experimentation. It has always been so. Those who experiment bring home the fish. Those who don't..? Well, a word to the wise is certainly sufficient.

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NIGHT FISHING CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

by Al Ristori

★★★ CONCLUSION ★★★

In the first portion of this article we discussed some of the peculiarities of night fishing and some specifics about trolling. However, trolling isn't everyone's bag—and not even the most effective way to catch big stripers at all times. Indeed, it's often hard to beat a live eel when night fishing. Drifting and casting lures also produces well at times and, who knows, maybe skimmer clam chumming will rebound one of these days.

Night in and night out, the deadliest bait you can have aboard is a live eel. That's not to say that live eels always produce, but stripers seem to respond to them even at times when they won't touch another thing. Live bunkers usually get a similar reaction during the day. The temptation to at least take a swat at it seems to be almost irresistible. What many anglers don't realize is that stripers don't feed all the time, particularly the larger fish. We're not in a good position to make that judgment from our position above the water, but our skin diver friends can provide all the proof we want about stacked up stripers totally ignoring all manner of lures and baits being presented to them. This is especially true in the daytime, which just isn't a normal prime feeding time for big bass—except during migratory periods. On several occasions I've watched divers spear stripers on every single pass through Pollack Rip, at Montauk Point, while charter and private boatmen couldn't get a hit.

When you run into a daytime situation like that, a good bet is to return at night with live eels. A bass of almost any size can inhale a live eel in a flash, and there's not normally all of the fooling around that often occurs with bunkers. Occasionally, non-feeding stripers will play with eels but, even then, you can often hook them in the process—due to the relatively small size of the bait and the placement of the hook.

Eels can be drifted or cast. Generally, the former method is most practical in deep water and the latter in shallow. I'm sure just about everyone is familiar with the incredible blitz that occurred at Montauk around the August full moon in 1978. A big school of bass was located near the Great Eastern buoy by Artie Johnson and other North Shore sharpies—and some amazing catches were made in the few days before the fleet arrived. Many boats took well over a thousand pounds a night of bass averaging twenty to thirty-five pounds, with bigger fish quite common. Almost everyone who put in several nights during the blitz broke the fifty pound mark, and a few sixties were also recorded. The single secret to catching these fish was the use of live eels. Other than that, it was so simple as to be embarrassing. It was as easy as drifting for fluke, though that species is harder to hook than those stripers were.

For those who were new to eel fishing, that blitz was hardly any preparation for normal drifting conditions. There were a few other nights in 1978 when big catches were made, but most of the time it took a lot of time and effort to produce a few bass with the "snakes." Last year it was even tougher—a lot of skunkings and very few decent catches, even during the August full moon. Yet, the technique is as valid now as

Jim Andrews unhooks a bass taken on an eel cast at dawn, the last of many taken during the night in Pleasant Bay.

it was then. If the bass can be located, a properly worked live eel will always be a best bet.

Both the rigging and technique for live eels is simple. A three-way swivel is employed, with a short length of mono to the sinker and a long length (five to six feet) to the hook. I favor a 7/0 hook, but some anglers use larger ones. Carry a selection of sinkers for different tidal conditions. Unless you have a wind against tide situation, it's rarely necessary to use heavy sinkers—and you should be prepared to drop down to an ounce or two as the tide slacks. It's a good idea to carry several rigs all tied and ready to go. Frequently, all the action on a tide will occur within a short period. You don't want to be wasting your time then preparing a new rig to replace one broken off. Fifty or sixty pound leader material is fine, but you may want to use a few inches of lighter line to tie on the sinker. That way, you'll at least save part of your rig should you hang up badly.

The eel is hooked from the bottom of the jaw up through an eye socket. Be sure to bring a rag with you to handle the eels, and also a hook disgorger with which to remove swallowed hooks. Eels are hardy and will last a long time on the hook. When stripers are hot they'll take even dead eels, but at other times, it pays to switch to a fresh eel when your bait slows down. Frequently, the same bait can be used for more than one fish by switching eye sockets. The usual method of hooking is to dip the rod to the fish as the first tugs are felt, and then give a good sweep to set the hook.

In making a drift, the idea is to lower the sinker to the bottom and then reel up a turn or two. In the rocky areas where this technique is usually employed, it's important to keep the sinker off the bottom in order to avoid hang-ups; but just as important to keep the eel close to the bottom—where the bass are! With the depth constantly changing, it's necessary to "feel" for bottom by dropping back frequently—and also to be ready to reel in some line when you hit a high spot. By keeping an eye on the flasher, you will be able to anticipate most changes in depth.

In deep water (twenty to fifty feet), stripers are likely to be located in the same places they're found during the day. Long stretches of flat bottom hold little attraction for them, so look for rips and areas of irregular bottom. At night, it's even more likely that bass will stay in one place and wait for bait to come to them. Therefore, you must put in the time to find those spots and then drift them correctly. Judging the course of a drift in a strong tide isn't all that easy in the daytime, and it can be a real problem at night. The solution is to use the same aid as in the daytime: a buoy. However, the Clorox bottle used in the day won't do you much good at night. You can rig up a taller buoy painted with fluorescent paint that can be picked up by your flashlight—or use a nightstick in a clear bottle.

A graph recorder can be a big help in this fishing, as the secret is to find concentrations of fish and then work them carefully. As effective as this method can be at times, it doesn't always produce—and it can get mighty boring drifting an eel all night without a hit. Trolling covers a greater area and seems to produce more consistently in the fall. Just as with any other method of fishing, a great deal of concentration must go into live eel drifting and only the dedicated will score with any consistency.

In shallower waters, live eels can be presented effectively by casting. They can be cast into jetties or rocks—or worked along the edges of sand bars. While the use of eels around jetties and in rocky areas is obvious, few anglers in our area seem to realize the potential of this bait over smooth bottoms. All of our bay areas have sand bars and dropoffs that are natural feeding areas for stripers looking for an eel to slither by. I got my start with live eels by fishing with Jim Andrews in Pleasant Bay, on Cape Cod, back in the Sixties. We had some super night fishing from Jim's fourteen foot Starcraft, and took a lot of big bass from that shallow, sandy bay. The usual technique involved anchoring on a sand bar and casting the eel up-tide along the dropoff. Line was picked up as the eel was swept along the drop, and then it was retrieved very slowly with a slight jigging motion. Normally a bass would nip at the eel first and we'd drop back in free spool—letting him run a bit before striking. My biggest bass—a sixty-one pounder—was taken in just this fashion.

Jim would also drift and cast in narrow channels through the flats, and anchor in little pockets on the edge of flats. It always amazed me that even the biggest bass would get up into such shallow areas at high tide. The best thing about such fish is that they are feeders. If they aren't, they'll stay in deep water rather than rubbing their bellies on the sand in search of food. On my best night with Jim, we anchored in such a pocket and at daylight, had so little water left under us that we could barely float the little Starcraft out into the channel. Yet, we caught fish right up to daylight, including a fifty-four and three in the upper forties!

Eels will naturally head for the bottom, and your usual problem is to keep them from getting into the grass or rocks. Therefore, it usually isn't necessary to add weight when using them in shallow water. Select sizes that are comfortable for you to cast on the tackle you're using. I prefer conventional tackle, with an eight to nine foot rod and good quality casting reel. Thirty pound mono is fine. In sandy areas, the hook can be tied directly to the line, but it's best to use a heavier leader around rocks. Spinning tackle is okay if you're more comfortable with it.

Eels can also be drifted in shallow water, though we always did much better by fishing them on a cast and retrieve basis—as if they were lures. In that fashion, the eel didn't have to have much life left in him and a few went a long way. Carry a few split shot with you in case you run into a bad wind condition or want to try a deeper channel. As previously noted, it's important to have the right size eel for casting, but rarely are bass all that fussy about size. I've caught schoolies on big eels and big fish on pencil eels. However, your best bet is to

(Continued on page 15.)

Jim shows off the "Killer," a live eel. If the tail curls it's still good for casting.

Drift an Inlet!

by William A. Muller

Picture a slick water surface in the early morning light. The sun rises out of the eastern horizon and sends hues of orange, yellow, and rusty red across the surface of the water. The tide is moving and the boat swings lazily with the tide as your rigs bounce gently along the rippled sands.

Great vision, right? These and many more visions and experiences are the soul of fishing. At the moment that you appreciate such an early dawn scene, it's hard to care one hoot about whether or not a fluke is picking up your baits below. However, and it is a **big** however, the beauty of the dawn doesn't last forever and once it is gone, your mind will be back to the business at hand—which is fluke fishing!

This is going to be a HOW-To fluke article and the first two paragaphs may not seem like the typical introduction into a nuts-and-bolts topic. It is, and I hope you forgive me the moment or two it has taken to paint the scene. I agree with those authors who insist that you don't have to catch fish to enjoy fishing. There is, however, one problem with that philosophy. If you experience repeated fishless trips, the anxiety builds up and the relaxing experience can become a nightmare of insecurity, self-doubt, and confusion. If the condition of fishlessness persists for weeks, a fisherman could actually begin to think about giving up the sport and that would be a terrible decision. We all go through fishless periods and my tolerance limit is about one or two trips before I start cursing the beautiful dawn and whipping the water with my fishing rod. How can we prevent the worst of the worst circumstances: no fish?

It has always struck me as odd that an outdoor writer sits at his typewriter and tells others how to avoid undesirable events when he or she has suffered just as often—if not more often—than the reader. The practice, on the surface, seems to put outdoor writers up in the sky somewhere, while the reader flounders in the mud. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. We have bad days and perhaps more than some because most of us fish a lot. I have bad days and in fact, many more bad days than I would like to admit to. I make dumb mistakes. Sometimes I make mistakes because I think too much and sometimes because I don't think enough. Later, as I roll around in bed in a fit of insomnia, I suddenly jump up and say to myself, "OF COURSE!"

Fluke should be landed head first with a wide-mouthed net.

Well, as odd as it may be for me to give advice to you about fluke fishing, I'm gonna do it anyway and for two reasons. First, it's my job and I believe in professional dedication. Second, I do believe I have a few thoughts to share with you. Most have come my way by picking the brains of fluke fishermen who could coax a fluke out of a barn; but here and there I have come up with a few thoughts on my own.

Take last summer, for example. We were a happy crew that left the marina at dawn and it was indeed one of those luxurious mornings. The first question was where do we fish. We could have fished in the back bays since there is good fluking to be had there, but we all agreed that the inlet would be a great place to drift on this glorious morning.

The next question involved rigs and baits and we managed to answer that part, too, although I'll hold off discussion of such items for just a little bit. You see, as we powered to the fishing grounds I looked around at the various rods that were in use. There were light spinning rods, heavy spinning rods, light saltwater conventional outfits, and even a baitcasting rig. In this regard, fluking offers all anglers ample opportunity for expression: so many rod and reel combinations are effective. One fisherman swears by his spinning reel and insists that it provides him with just the right feel. However, for myself I like a conventional outfit—be it saltwater standard or light baitcasting. I prefer the use of conventional tackle only because it is easier to work with when fishing bottom where baits must go up and down and are not cast, and where the bottom must be felt and adjusted to continuously. For both flounder fishing and fluking, I use two outfits. One is a Shakespeare President Conventional baitcasting reel with the matching Ugly Stik, and the other outfit is a very whippy seven foot stick that I put together a few years ago and I put a Shimano Bantam on that. Great feel and great sport!

Fluke fishermen disagree about rigs, too. Some use spinners and other fancy hardware while I prefer a very simple rig. Both catch fluke—still I find my simple rigs catches less weed. I use a three-way swivel. One eye receives a short length of mono (about ten inches) for the sinker; another is tied to my line, and the third gets the leadered hook. I like a long leader of thirty or forty pound test monofilament. I usually string out about three feet for the leader and this was taught to me a long time ago by a super fluke fisherman. He pointed out that if the sinker stirs up sediment well in advance of the baited hook, a fluke may be stimulated to respond to your bait and have enough time to find it before it drifts by. I attach a large hook—a 5/0, 6/0 or 7/0 short-shank hook. Now, some may disagree with that idea and claim that a long-shank is needed in order to keep the sharp-toothed fluke from biting you off. However, the teeth of the fluke are spaced (unlike a bluefish) and it is rare for a fluke to bite you off. On the other hand, the short shank is easier to conceal with bait and I feel that this is important. When whole, large baits such as squid and mackerel or snappers are used, it may be necessary to use a double-hook rig. The double-hook allows the fisherman to secure the bait in front and in back thus avoiding spin. However, for killies, sand eels, spearing, and squid strips a single hook is often superior.

Baits are varied, too. The old standby calls for squid strip and killie combination, while the light tackle purist may insist that small tins and bucktails retrieved slowly along the bottom catch more fluke at times. At

times this is true, especially in places with severe high spots and troughs where fluke may be more attracted to a flashy bait. However, in most places and on most occasions, bait works best. In-between the squid and killie, and the bucktail lies a world of bait variety. Whole squid, whole tinker mackerel, sand eels; sand eels and squid strip; plain squid strips; spearing; spearing and squid strips, and maybe even strips of turkey roll for that matter.

Much depends upon where you are fishing. If an area is loaded with sand eels, it may be hard to tempt a fluke with anything but a sand eel. The same can happen with any of the other baits. I suppose that if I could get a steady supply of **fresh** sand eels, I'd use them in preference to other baits. However, most often the sand eels are frozen, the bellies are broken, and the flesh is soft. The same thing happens with spearing—although it is easier to seine up some fresh spearing before you start a trip. Still, I prefer live killies. Most boat liveries and bait shops that are located on the water will carry a supply of live killies. In order to keep them alive, you need a killie cart. You can buy them and they are also readily available in stores, but you can easily make one too. A killie cart is either a small wooden box with wire mesh or a plastic container with holes. Both allow for the free flow of sea water into and out of the container. You can even catch your own supply of killies with a killie trap that is baited with clam, mussels, or fish remains and allowed to rest on the bottom for an hour or so in quiet, back-bay areas.

Now, you can embellish your killie with squid strip if you like; but if you're gonna do that it is wise to buy local squid, in my opinion, since I believe that the California bait is inferior in many ways—not the least of which are color, taste, and texture! If you do add a squid strip, make it long, thin, and tapered. Hook it once through the broad end so that the tapered end will flutter in the current. However, whether you use a killie alone or with a squid strip a common question is how to hook the killie. Some fishermen hook it through the lips, some in the mouth and out the gills, and others through the back. Again, all of these methods catch fluke. Still, I prefer to hook them in a way that was shown to me a long time ago by an old-timer. One day, when I was young, I noticed that this fella was taking fluke after fluke, while I took only a few. He was using killies and I was using killies. I didn't understand what was happening. I asked him and he was cooperative. "Listen, son'," he said, "the fluke are a little picky today. They want their bait lively. Hook that killie through the tail and it will stay alive a lot longer. That ol' killie will do a jig on your hook down there while it tries to get off. It won't get off, but while it tries, it will set up one terrific commotion. When Mr. Fluke sees that beauty come sliding by, why he'll pounce on it like a cat on a mouse."

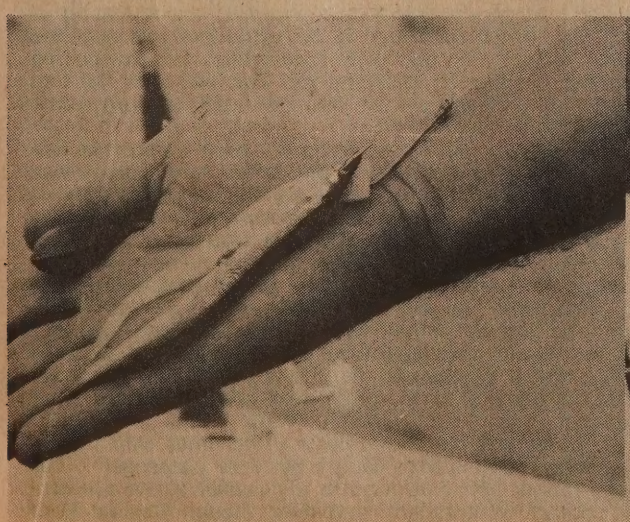
I tried the old-timer's suggestion and he was right. Not only did I get more hits, but they were more energetic and the fluke were easier to hook. I ended that day with a nice mess of fluke and I've been hooking those little beasts through the tail ever since.

There are only a few more ingredients before we can call it quits. Fluke offer their own brand of challenge. When a fluke picks up a bait, it will not swallow the bait in one gulp. Instead, they slowly work their way up to the hook. Sure, one or two will grab the part with the hook, but most will not. Thus, if you strike a fluke at the instant the pick-up is felt, most will escape. So the pros suggest that you "drop-back," that is, free the reel's clutch and allow the line to go out with only gentle thumb pressure (another reason why I prefer a conventional rod and reel). After about ten or fifteen seconds you can point the rod tip at the fish and put your thumb down on the spool thus stopping the line. Allow the slack to come out of the line. If the fluke has the bait deep, you'll feel considerable tension as the slack comes out. If, however, the fluke does not have the hook, the bait will begin to shred and the tension will be minimal—you'll feel it "slipping." If it "slips," drop-back again. Repeatedly drop-back until either the fluke is gone or you have him good! Fluking takes some patience. There are those days when they will attack a bait and then it is easy to hook them. However, that is the exception rather than the rule. Patience is the watchword.

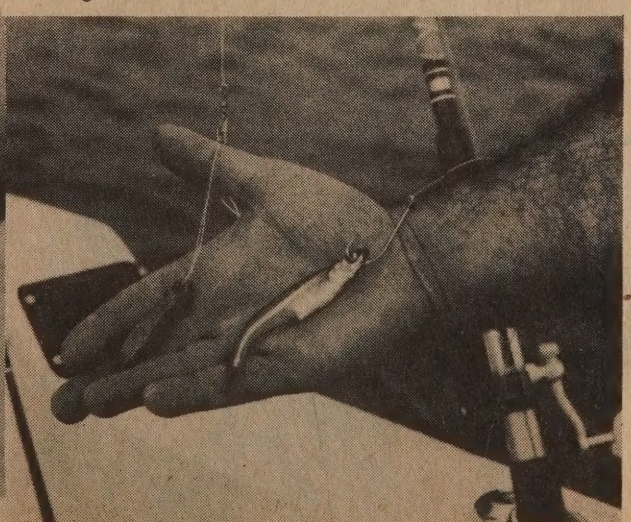
Another question about fluking involves catching big fluke. Understandably not only do people want to catch these tasty fish in quantity, but also in quality. The bigger the fluke, the better the fight and, of course, the greater the return per unit of angling effort. Big baits, big fish is the general advice to catch more bigger fish, regardless of the species, although a big one will—from time to time—take a fancy to a small tidbit. Whole squid, mackerel strips, strips of fluke belly, etc., are used by sharpies seeking the trophy. If you do use big baits, you probably won't catch as many fish.

Which brings us to the last ingredient. A net. Most fluke are hooked either in the lip or deep in the throat. Even a small fluttering fluke can slip away when lifted into the boat and big ones will make the last lunge for the bottom just about the time you start to hoist 'em. Put the net in the water before the fluke is on the surface and then as the fish comes to the boat, slip the net under it.

There are many places to fish for fluke from the shoals of Montauk in the swells of the ocean to the flat bottom of back-bay waters, but if you want to drift for fluke, with the possibility of a little spice thrown in (doormats, weakfish, and a powerful drift), why not try drifting an inlet.



The sand eel and squid strip combination is a traditional bait for fluke that consistently produces.



Fresh spearing hooked through the eye sockets are an attractive bait that is more durable than frozen baits.

Shades of Sheepshead Bay

by Andy Regina

We were bottom fishing in Long Island Sound, close by the beautiful beach of Lloyd's Neck, which is your typical north shore beach: gravel-strewn sand interspersed by huge granite boulders, and backed up by high sand cliffs, topped off with a profusion of green forestry. The homes nestled on the bosom of the cliffs were mute testimonials to the gracious living enjoyed by their owners. There were no tenements, no Els, no high-rise co-ops—nothing to denote that we were still within the confines of the same body of water that touched upon the muddy shores of The Bronx, which is our home base, and the site of City Island—the port from which we sailed.

The North Star is a Bronx-based party boat that sails from City Island on a daily basis; and that summer day we had sailed in quest of flounders and blackfish, which were the usual species sought by most of the boats plying the Sound in the summer. When we were lucky enough to get visited by bluefish, some of the boats would then switch over to that more exotic species. But as things now stood, it was blacks and flounders—take it or leave it—the bluefish had not yet launched their hoped-for invasion.

And fishing wasn't all that great either. The season had already peaked off; the warm waters of summer had sent most of the blacks and flounders elsewhere, seeking the cooler water temperature that each preferred. Blackfish and flounders are regular spring and fall visitors, hightailing it in the dog days of summer as water temperatures soar, and in the cold of winter, when icy-chill waters also send them in search of more suitable water temperatures. You can still catch them in summer, but not in any great numbers or sizes, as you can in the peak of their seasons. They are, more than anything else, a valid reason to go fishing at a time that the days are bright and sunny, and many people plan their fishing dates to coincide with the pleasant weather, forsaking better action earlier in the year, when it might have been too cool for their tastes.

A brace of porgies comes over the rail.

For me there is no season: I get out whenever I can, and capitalize on blitzes in the spring and fall, tempering leaner days of summer with the basic need to relax afloat. If a few fish are our reward, so much the better, but here again the prime mover is nice weather and pleasant conditions on the water. Sitting in the shade and enoying the sea breeze, chatting with a neighboring fisherman and enjoying a cool drink can make for pleasant memories too, and catching a couple of fish is then just so much icing on the cake—a bonus that makes the whole slice more appetizing and appealing.

I was idly reminiscing when a sharp rap brought me back to reality. The fish had struck unexpectedly, catching me off guard, and leaving me with bare hooks and egg all over my face, as I now became the butt of a lot of good-natured teasing. The mate asked to check my hooks, on the off-chance that they may have been made out of rubber, and even the captain got in his two cents worth, leaning down from the sundeck above where his wheelhouse was. Laughing to hide my embarrassment, I reeled in my line and re-baited the two small Chestertown hooks with pieces of sand worm, lowering them to the bottom once more, determined to hook whatever it was that was the cause of my hazing.

The answer was not long in coming: a scant few minutes elapsed before I once again felt the sharp rat-a-tat bite as before, but because I was alert and on the offensive this time, a sharp upward thrust of my rod tip resulted in a successful hook-up, and I started reeling in a fish that surprised me with the scrap it put up in defense. Now I had everyone on my side again, as Eddie the mate and Pete, the captain, both joined several curious passengers in awaiting the surfacing of my fish, which continued to do battle every inch of the way, slugging it out with determined bottom-seeking boring that alerted us to the fact that this time the fish was not a blackfish or flounder—but a porgy, the saltwater bream.

A flash of silver told the story even before the fish was brought to the surface, and a one pound porgy was soon beating a final tattoo in my bucket—which elated passengers and crew alike, for now perhaps we would have some action. Although the porgy is a warm weather visitor to the Sound, there had not been any caught to date; and if they once got started, they could provide some fast and furious fishing for us that would carry us over to the fall, when the blackfish and flounder action would once again be perking up. And because they are a gregarious fish, often traveling in large schools, fishing for porgies could even prove hectic at times.

Today was not to be one of those times. Although a few more porgies were caught by other passengers, that lone ranger spent its time in my bucket like a prisoner in solitary confinement, and even though Captain Pete moved the boat several times, and Eddie tried to coax some porgies to the boat by chumming, the cracked

skimmer clams failed to entice any more to our hooks. In desperation, Pete tried fishing adrift, hoping to drift over a school of porgies, at which time he would have Eddie lower the anchor, keeping us on top of the fish-producing structure, and giving us a better shot at catching more fish.

The first drift proved uneventful, although someone did catch a small flounder. Our second drift saw a smattering of porgies come aboard: good news, but not enough reason yet to anchor the boat. On our third drift we caught several more porgies, and I was feeling especially happy because I had gotten three more fish—a fact I made sure was brought to the attention of the crews and some of my fellow passengers who had so roundly ridiculed me less than a scant hour earlier. It was my turn to do the teasing, and I loved every minute of it; but then something happened that made me feel ashamed of my boasting.

A young girl fishing nearby asked me why she was not catching fish, although she was using the same bait as all of us, and was fishing right next to people who were catching fish. I first made certain that she was directly on the bottom, for with these fish, as with almost all bottom-hugging species, if you were even a couple of inches above the bottom, you were out of the strike zone. Most of these fish will just not take a bait anywhere off the bottom, which is where they are accustomed to find them in a natural state. There will be an occasion exception to the rule, but most of your catches will be made directly on the bottom.

When I was certain that the girl was indeed fishing bottom, I had her reel in her line, so that I could check her rigging. Here too, even if your sinker is dragging bottom, if your hooks are tied on too high above the sinker you negate their effectiveness. For best results, tie those hooks no more than two or three inches above your sinker, thus allowing them to lay on the bottom where the action is. A check of the girl's rigging proved that she was rigged properly, but also showed that she was not baiting the hooks correctly. Whereas you should use small pieces of worm for porgies, threading them onto the hook and up the shank, until the hook point and barb are completely exposed, this girl was impaling whole sand worms on her hooks, letting the bulk of the worm trail off. While this technique is ideal for weakfish or striped bass, it is sheer waste for porgies, which are notorious bait stealers anyway, even when you use small pieces of bait. That's why we make certain that the hook point and barb are left exposed, hoping to better hook these accomplished bait pilferers.

I tried my best to explain all this to the girl, who was intelligent enough to comprehend the reasoning I expounded, and although she was courteous and pleasant, she insisted on doing things her own way anyhow. Who was I to insist? We all paid our fares, and we all paid for our bait, and if she wanted to use whole sand worms—let her, it was her money. Perhaps if she spent enough on bait this time, she would learn better for the next time. In this life we all pay for our education in some way or other. Some pay in taxes, others in learned mistakes, and anything I learned the hard way—by doing it wrong the first time—was something I never forgot. Perhaps this girl was like that too, I thought, as I shrugged it off and we all resumed fishing. During the lessons, Pete had moved a little offshore, and we were once more starting another drift.

Five minutes later, the girl shrieked that she was stuck on bottom, and her pretzel-bent rod attested to the fact in mute assent, coming perilously close to the breaking point. Only the line slipping off her reel saved that rod, thanks to an adroit move on my part as I was examining the rigging earlier. If that reel drag had remained screwed-down as tightly as before, something would have surely given, either the line or the rod, which makes proper drag adjustment mandatory on each and every trip. If you get into the habit of releasing all drag tension after each trip, you'll not only add longevity to the drag washers, and save yourself money or lost fish in the process, you'll automatically be forced to set a proper drag tension when you fish.

As the mate was coming to her assistance, the girl's rod throbbed—a sign of fish on, and a pretty good one at that. All thought of helping her get unstuck went by the boards as Eddie now stood by, coaching her in fish-fighting tactics, ably abetted by Pete up above and all of us alongside, which thankfully was tuned out by the excited anglerette. Had she heard us all, and tried to follow all that conflicting advice, she surely would have been a prime candidate for the booby-hatch—besides undoubtedly losing her fish to boot! As it was, she paid heed to Eddie's sage advice, pumping gently when the fish rested, and keeping her rod tip high when the fish struggled, and soon she brought a nice fluke to the surface, where Eddie netted in in one dextrous swoop.

Now there was a new boss on deck, and lots of more good-natured kidding all around, which the girl took like a trooper. And she wound up winning the pool that day, some twenty dollars richer—proving once again, perhaps, that it takes money to make money. Had she followed our lead, and used small pieces of bait, it is highly unlikely that the fluke would have struck her hook. Those fish are natural predators, and thrive on live bait of all kinds—predominantly minnows, but also whole, live worms. Had she known this all the while? We'll never know, and our questions only elicited a Mona Lisa smile, which can lead you to draw your own conclusion.

Walking through the gate after we disembarked that day, I spotted the big sign advertising the North Star. You know the type of sign I mean. All party boats put them on display, so that prospective passengers will know what fish each boat is sailing for. And as I read "Blackfish and Flounders," I smiled at the thought that it **should** have read "Porgies and Fluke," as all those signs on Emmons Avenue used to read, when I used to travel to Brooklyn to go fishing. Shades of Sheepshead Bay!

The charming pool winner proudly displaying her fluke.

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MONTAUK
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PORGIES

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the first fluke were brought into the marina by Al on the "Friendship." Al and friends took a half a dozen fluke at Shagwong during the outgoing tide. Henry also gave us the first swordfish report of the season. Richie Palladori on the "Aquaholic" baited a nice size swordfish in forty fathoms of water 140° from the Point. They hooked up with the fish and fought him well, only to lose it at the boat. Al Levy on the "Albatross" spotted a couple of white marlin 20 miles out, 150° from the Point, but they wouldn't touch anything. The "Mary M" had 35 bluefish on the weekend, but Henry said that the action on Saturday was pretty poor.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Starship** asked us to announce his special first time ever trip! It will be a 2 day trip sailing Friday night at 11 p.m., returning Sunday night. This safari which leaves June 27th at 11 p.m. has approximately 30 openings remaining. Targets will be tile, tuna, night drifting for swordfish and the following day on some of the best Nantucket wrecks for giant cod and pollack. It is advised that you cll

Bruce Klappert, Al Borne, Bill Cetta and George Clapp with 2 of 6 blue sharks taken aboard Captain Gary Kieffer's "Barracuda" at Montauk.

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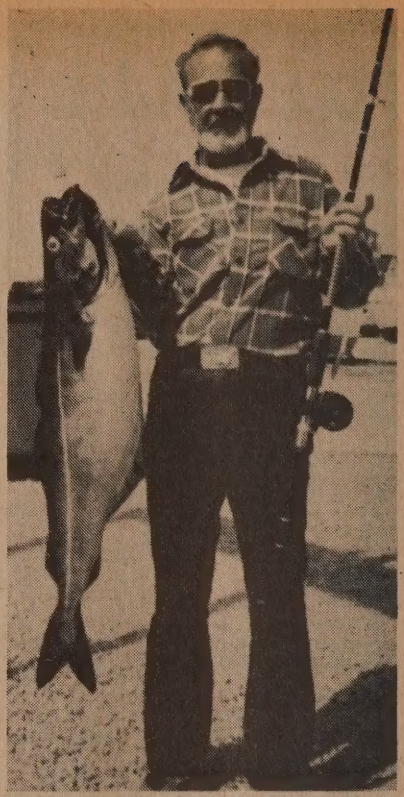
Alan Less, Tony Bozzi and Dean Quinlan of Yonkers with pollack to 38 lbs. taken on diamond jigs at Block Island, aboard the Pepi II. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.



Tom Cashman holds the pending 6 lb. class world record pollack which he landed aboard the Barbar Jac at Montauk.

immediately as time is short and spots are going fast. Night bluefishing trips begin this Saturday night. See ad for details.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper** tells us that he's been fishing the pocketbook bank, taking jumbo porgies from 1¼ to 3½ lbs., along with seabass up to 3¾ lbs. Blacks and flounder are also being caught. Ed Bryan of the Bronx wa shigh hook mid-week with 52 porgies. Saturday's blustering winds put the catch down a bit. Sunday however saw an upswing again with Phil Westbrook of Brooklyn bagging 36 large porgies.

Capt. Gary Kieffer of the charter boat **Barracuda** called to tell of plenty of blues and blue shark offshore. Tuesday's charter caught 8 blue shark. Six were tagged and released and 2 are to be mounted. Twenty bluefish filled out the catch. Gary reports plenty of fluke south of Block Island and also mackerel over the weekend in the same area.

Capt. Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** called to say that the offshore action has been pretty good. More sharks are showing up and there are good catches of bluefish to be had. Water temperature in another week should be just right for mako shark. Frank says he has open dates during the week in June and July and to give him a jingle if interested. See ad for number.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter

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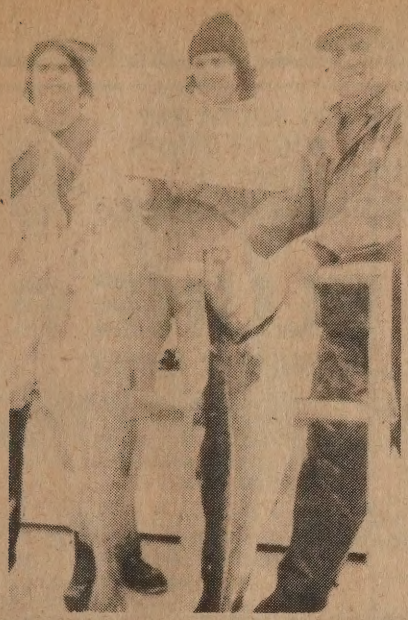


This trio of pool winners was taken on a recent Nantucket wreck trip aboard the "Viking Starship." Robert Key hefts 58 lb. cod; Frank King with a 59 lber. and Albert Parnes displays his 28 lb. pollack.

boat **Adios** reports that Thursday's half-day charter for Jake Caruso and Bob Mayo brought in over 100 bluefish. Youngest angler so far this season has been 5 yr. old Jerry Boettcher of Copiague and the youngster brought in a triple-header of bluefish on an umbrella off Shagwong. Sunday's charter managed 3 bass around the Point.

The **Marlin Fleet** reports that the **marlin IV** has been doing very well on porgies and seabass. The porgies are mainly large ones and there are also some fluke mixed in. See ad for new summer schedule.

Gone Fishing Marina reports excellent bluefishing and porgy fishing over the weekend. Mid to jumbo sized porgies at the pocketbook grounds. Big bluefish off Block Island on bait and chum, umbrellas or diamond jigs. Gary Doyle on his boat Lena D had 60 blues up to 15 lbs. trolling south of Block.

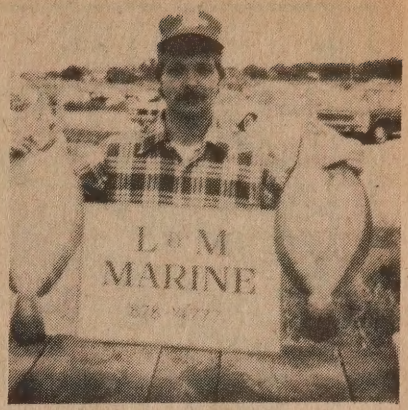
SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** described the fluke fishing as fair, but steady with a lot of short fish still mixed in the catches. Flounder fishing remains worthwhile in the Basket area for those fishing worms. In the Peconics, weakfish and blues up to 6 lbs. being jigged, trolled and taken on jelly worms and sand worms at the South Race and at Jessup's. Action is inconsistent, but those who work at it come up with some surprisingly good catches. Porgy fishing has improved, according to Thom with most boats averaging 30-40 fish apiece, with quite a few in the 1 lb. class among the catches. Worms, squid and clams all accounting for the porgies at Cow Neck and the Middle Grounds.

Charterboat **Bluewater Drifter** skipper John Tolren called to say that Saturday's charter for Tony of Bell Fence Co. had bluefish in the shark slick. One blueshark was tagged and released. Sunday's trip for Ron Adromonti and group split the day with bluefish and sharks. Many blues were caught in the 10 to 12 lb. range. They also had several blueshark, all of which were tagged and released.

Augie, Ralph and Jerry with 3 bass and a pile of blues taken on Aya jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."



Ed Eismann with a 5.9 and 3.12 lb. fluke taken at buoy 44 on sand eel and squid combos. He fished aboard a skiff rented from L&M Fishing Station.

HAMPTON BAYS

From **Corr's Mariners Cove**, Mickey told us that Saturday's wind killed the fishing for most, but that on Sunday, there was some pretty fair fluking with most boats averaging 10-15 of the summer flatfish on killies, spearing and sand eels. Also on Sunday, boatmen trolling wire line and umbrella rigs scored with bluefish in the 6 lb. class both inside and outside of the Inlet. Still some flounder at the Basket area on worms. Some anglers still managed to fill a 5-gallon pail.

Walter Sr. and Jr. and David Czekaj with 105 flounder taken at buoy 42 on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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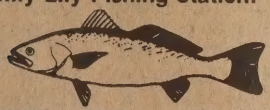
★CAPTREE★

Louie and Carl Piergiorgi with a catch of 5 fluke, 1 bluefish and flounder taken at buoy 32. The fluke fell for sand eel and squid combos. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.



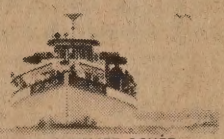
MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** described the fluke fishing as good. He spoke of an 8½ lb. doormat taken by Bob Henderson aboard the Magic Carpet on Sunday. The big flatfish was taken on a sand eel and squid combo at the Inlet and was among a catch of eight. Al Lubbers took doormats of 9¼ and 7¼ lbs. with his wife Marilyn. They had a total of 10 fish. Still a lot of shorts in the area which makes for plenty of action in-between the bigger fish, says Bill. Flounder still plentiful at buoys 38, 39 and 29 and also at Haven's Point on worms. Blues around on the outside for wire line trollers, but no big real concentration of fish as of yet. Lots of blue sharks and big blues offshore from 120' of water to 240' of water for chummers.

John at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** tells us that the fluking is picking up and catches have been best at buoy 44 with skiffs averaging 7 to 10 keepers a boat. A few 5 pounders were caught this past week and Al Lubbers of NJ rang the bell with a 10 lb. fluke which grabbed a sandeel-squid combo. On Sunday 10 fluke ranging from 3 to 4 lbs. were brought into the station. A few scattered bay blues are smacking fluke rigs.

Ramona at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** announces that the flounder fishing is still good with the south side of buoys 36 and 38 best in recent days. Fluke are also being picked up on sandeels-squid combos.

★(516) 586-5511



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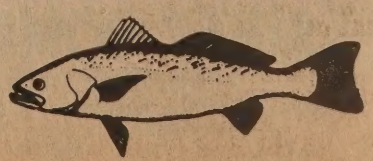

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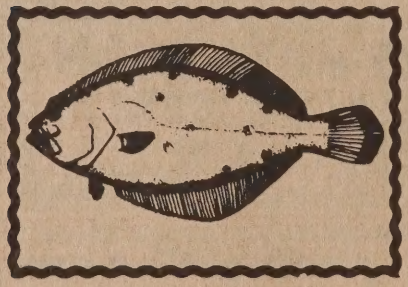

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GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Stritz's Fishing Station tells of fantastic bluefishing in Nassau Bay from buoy 17 to the Smith Point Bridge. Average catch is from 40 to 50 per boat, fish in the 2½ to 5 lb. range. Capt. Bill Rigs seem to be accounting for a lot of fish. Crabbing is starting from buoy 17 to Smith Point Bridge. Fluke from 17 to 21. One out of 3 fish are keepers and keepers are averaging 15 to 20 per boat on squid and live killies.

SAYVILLE

Bob Lee at **Young's Fishing Station** described the fluking from Fire Island Pines to the Lighthouse as excellent on Sunday. In addition, there has been a sprinkling of blowfish and sea bass mixed in. Small weaks and blues being taken by many of the boats off of Fire Island Pines and Cherry Grove and what should be good news to many, crabs are finally getting started. Over the weekend, Dave Crocco and his friend Mike returned with 30 fluke up to 3½ lbs., taken on squid, spearing and sand eels. Mike Pes-

Jeri DeBari of Brooklyn with a pair of big weakfish taken off of Point O'Woods on sand worms. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

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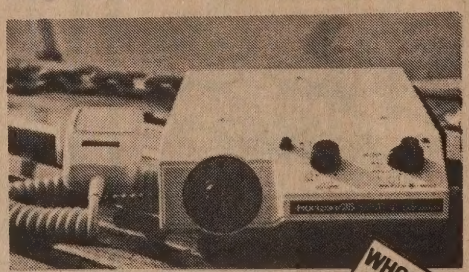

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tone and Hans Hafgern, both of Oceanside, had 5 fluke to 4¼ lbs., a couple sea bass, a few blues and some blowfish. Tommy Marzo took five weakfish from 3-4 lbs. off of Fire Island Pines.

WEST SAYVILLE

From **South Bay Fishing Station** Vinnie reported good fluke action from Point O'Woods to Ocean Beach. He weighed in fish up to 6 lbs. taken from this area over the past week. Vinnie gave killies the edge in the bait department. Good action with small blues off of Heckscher and small weakfish and blues being taken off Cherry Grove, Fire Island Pines and buoy 29. A couple of sea bass at buoy 17.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports Center** reported a showing of blue claw crabs in several parts of the bay. The fluke fishing is worthwhile, with a lot of decent sized flatfish now making up the bulk of the catches. Small blues roaming around deep inside the bay with bigger choppers around the lighthouse area for trollers using wire line and umbrella rigs. For freshwater fans, Dave relayed word of many fine trout coming out of the Connetquot River. While there has been nothing to match last week's 12 lb. brown, quite a few trout in the 3-4 lb. range have been taken. Al Cross checked in a 3 lb. 3 oz. brown one day last week.

BAY SHORE

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** says fluking has been excellent all this past week with catches averaging 6 to 10 keepers per man. Saturday saw Bill Olsen of Bay Shore high hook with 18 keepers. Best action has been at West Channel and Sexton Island, both areas 20 minutes from the dock.

CAPTREE

The open boat **Capt. Gillen** reported that most boats have been enjoying steady fluke action. Captain Jim said that fishing has been better than that of the last two seasons. Also, more keepers among the catches than there were a week ago. The boat has been fishing the State Channel, West Island, the R.M. bridge, Dickerson Channel and the Apple Orchard. The Captain said the best action generally occurs on the last of the flood, but both tides have been good particularly around the change. Sand eesl and spearing accounting for most of the fish.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** said that the fluking has its highs and lows. Quite a few 3 and 4 lbers now make up the day's catch, with the flood tide producing best. Sunday's pool fish was a 6 lb.

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doormat. The captain has been working off of Ocean Beach, West Channel, and Snake Hill Channel. He added that he will probably be switching over to blues by the weekend. See his ad for details.

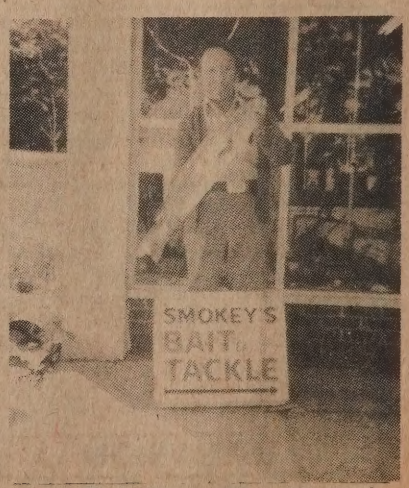
Bobby at the Bait Station said that good fluke fishing continues for casters off of Fisherman's Wharf and also for boatmen in the State Channel at Captree. As I spoke to him Monday AM, he was counting fluke coming over the rails and up on the dock in front of the shop. The biggest fluke weighed in by a pier fisherman this week was a 3 lb. 14 oz. flatfish, taken by Henry Schneider on Sunday on a killie and squid combo. Charles Lewis of CI weighed in a 3½ lb. fluke which he caught aboard the charter boat **Yankee III.**

Capt. Neil of the charterboat **Lady Ann** called to say that the fluking has been excellent all week. His fluke charters have been averaging 200 per trip with many fish in the 2 to 3 lb. class, fishing Snake Hill Channel, West Channel and East Channel with sandeel, squid and spearing.

The skipper asked us to mention that he will be running a special reservation bluefish trip 7 p.m. Saturday, July 5th and Sunday, July 20th another bluefish trip that will sail at 4 p.m. See ad for details.

Charterboat **Capt. Leo** reports that Saturday's charter for the Ridgewood K of C enjoyed excellent fluking. Ken Stertefeldt of Ridgewood caught 7 flounder, including 1 double-header. This was his first time fishing. Joe Aumuller of Ridgewood caught a 4 lb. 2 oz. fluke. All in all the fluking has shown at marked improvement.

Capt Ron Peters of the charter boat **Yankee III** called to say that State Channel has been producing fluke on both tides in good quantities but a lot of these fish are midgets and must be returned so that they can grow up. However,



Arnie Perengkvan with a big weak taken in Great South Bay. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait & Tackle.

catches of mostly keeper fish in the 2 to 3 lb. class. Fares are working sandeels and fluke belly and the ebb tide has been producing best.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** says that the fluking has ranged from fair to good to the tune of 3 to 5 good keeper fluke a man average. Saturday was off a little due the severe winds. A 6 lb. semi-doormat was brought up on Sunday. The skipper says the afternoon trips are also producing. Best areas have been all over the flats along Dickerson's Channel and also in East and West Channels. Squid, sandeel and spearing baits are all working well. Sizes of fish have shown a marked improvement and pool winners most days are ranging from 3 to 5 lbs.

Capt. Dan Juettner of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reports a 4 lb. fluke, took the pool on Wednesday for Bernie Broman. Tuesday's trip for 35 passengers saw over 300 total fluke caught, most of which were keepers, with a 6 pounder grabbing the pool. Dan says the fluke are all over the bay, that there is a tremendous body of fluke that sneaked by the dragger's nets and the fluke outlook is very rosy. Bluefish are also moving in quickly said Dan. Larry Marshall is now running the **Capt. Joseph**. Larry has been with the **Joseph Fleet** for 8 years. The **Joseph Fleet** is now sailing 3 fluke trips daily along with a 7 p.m. bluefish daily. See ad for details.

The **Capt. Whittaker** reports a decent fluke weekend especially on the last of the flood in the channels and in the back creeks and flats. Sandeels and killies were the tempters and there were just a scattering of throw-backs. Fishing at the Inlet has not been so hot this past week.

Capt. Rod Westerlind of the **Capt. Rod** tells of good fluking Saturday even with the strong winds. Rod says there is a good run of fluke in the bay now with about ⅓ of those caught being keepers and that the fish being taken this past week have been larger.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy has asked us to let you know that in about a week to a week and a half he will be bringing into Captree his new boat which is called **Capt. Bob Joseph**. The boat will be sailing two fluke trips daily and may even be sailing bluefish by the time the boat gets in, as the blues seem to be moving in rapidly. At this printing the boat is getting its finishing, beautifying touches. Capt. Charlie says that the blues are on their way to Captree and so is the **Capt. Bob Joseph**. Watch for next week's ad in the Captree section for details. If you have any questions you can reach Capt. Kennedy at 516-269-9656.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** said that it was a good weekend with

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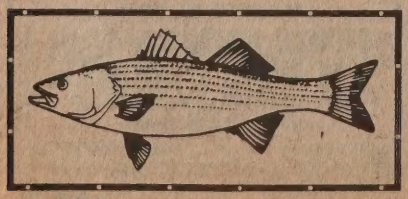

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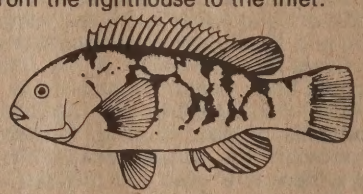
consistent fluke action in the State Channel behind Grass Island, Snake Hill Channel and Dickerson Channel. Killies, sand eels and squid all accounted for good catches. In addition, an occasional blackfish and porgy were mixed in with the flatfish. Bill said that he has weighed fluke up to 6 lbs. in recent days and that the average size of the fish has improved greatly. The first mako was weighed at the station on Sunday. Bob Lafferty took the 186 lb. jumper aboard his father's boat, the Sand Castle. John Bauman helped handle the gaffing chores. The crew fished in 150' of water, southeast of Fire Island Inlet. A few stripers on clam chum under the Robert Moses bridge and blues in the 6-7 lb. class trolled on umbrella rigs near the pound nets late last week.

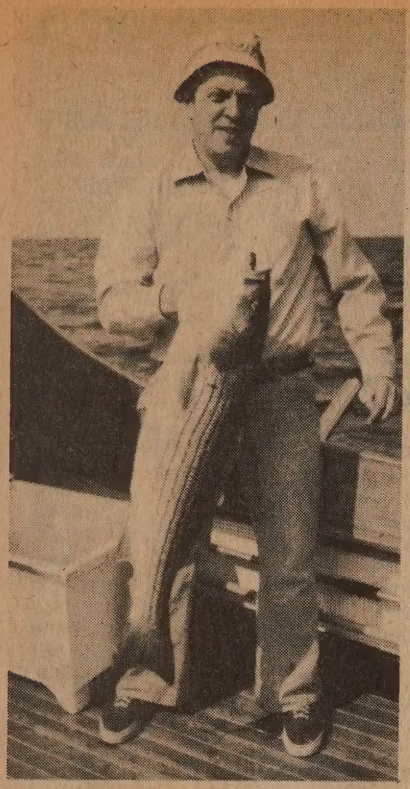
Ralph at **Augie's Tackle Shop** reported the results of the Babylon Tuna Club shark contest which was run this past weekend. A 137 lb. mako, the first for a club member this year, settled the contest which was dominated by loads and loads of blue sharks. Ralph said that at least 50 of the blues over the 100 lb. minimum qualifying weight were weighed in. Plenty of anglers reported seeing makos but could do nothing with them. The winning fish was landed by Tommy Immoratto aboard the Thirsty Lady. A 4.12 lb. fluke taken aboard the Idler was weighed in on Sunday. The private boat Roll Tide had a catch of 40 keeper fluke by the R.M. bridge on Thursday. Ralph knew of blues and a few weaks trolled on umbrella rigs from the lighthouse to the inlet.



SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SEAFORD

Marie at **Lon Wanser's Tackle Shop** said that Saturday's wind cut down greatly on the fishing in the area. High school graduations on Sunday didn't help matters any either. She did describe the fluke fishing as improved and said that sand eels have been taking quite a few of the flatfish in the inlet area and near the bridges. She said that some weakfish and bass were taken by trollers outside of the inlet last week.



Sonny DiPalo with his first striper ever, a 22 lber. taken on a white Lancer tube at the Tin Can Grounds. The fish was caught aboard the boat Nikasia. Subscriber photo.

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station reports bigger fluke catches are coming now with a better keeper ratio as well, in the 80 percent range. Best areas have been Great Island Channel, Sloop Channel and the channel to Squaw Island on sandeels, squid and live killies. Crabs are being taken at the dock in the canal. Good flounder catches on the ebb at the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges, worms working best. Some weakfish at the flood in Massapequa Cove, best catches made on shrimp.

John of **Pop's Fishing Station** said that fishing was poor on windy Saturday, but described the general scene as fair. On Sunday, Bill Trexler had a nice catch of flounder to 2 lbs. west of the Wantagh bridge on worms and mussel and corn chum. Same day, Marlene Cardova weighed in a 4.4 lb. fluke which she took on a sand eel and squid combo. Twelve members of the Starfish Fishing Club returned with a nice catch of fluke and flounder made between the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges, west side.

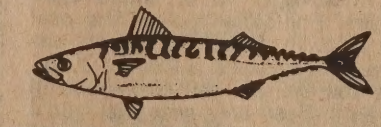
MERRICK

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore says his customers have reported they are catching blues on umbrellas and jigs from 3-5 lbs. at Cholera and in the HA area. Larger blues are around the HA. Some fluke in the area of Jones Inlet and sloop channel on spearing and sand eels, but not in quantity or quality for the most part.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that on Monday morning of this week Dennis Newman, local bass hound, and daughter Karen, fished a live bunker at the Meadowbrook Bridge and coaxed up a 31¼ lb. striped bass. It should be noted that it has been tough locating bunker. Fluking was off Friday and Saturday due to strong winds. It was good however, Monday through Thursday at Merrick Point and Broad Creek, though there were a lot of throw-backs involved. Two regulars had 26 keepers fishing at Merrick Point using just spearing on the hook. Sunday saw one boat drift up 16 keepers using squid, sandeels and killies at the Golf Course. Good catches of blues being trolled and chummed in 110' to 130' of water. Bass sharpie George Zipper took a 22 lb. striper Saturday morning on live bunker fishing east of the Meadowbrook.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports lots of fluke taken this past week at Scow Creek and Reynold's Channel roughly 25 percent being keepers. Bluefish are starting. Dennis Detwiller had a 12¼ lb. blue Sunday while jigging in 80' of water SE of the Inlet.



Five-year-old Stefan Leikin with a nice fluke taken aboard the open boat "Commodore." The big flatfish copped the pool for the young angler.

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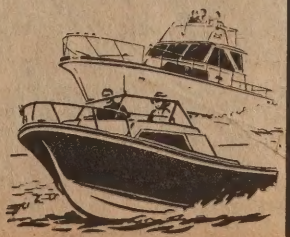

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ PORGIES

FREEPORT

From **Anthony's Fishing Station**, Greta summed up the fluke fishing in one word, "good." She looked over a catch of 8 to 4.4 lbs. made on Sunday by Joe Agnello of upstate New York on sand eels and squid. Buddy Koons of Bay Shore returned with 15 nice fluke, many 3-4 lbs. from Middle Creek Sunday. He used killie and squid combos.

Charlie Silvera at the **Freeport Boatmens Association** reports that over the weekend most of the boats had some bluefish trolled up in the 5-9 lb. range. The charter boat **Big Foot** ran 50 miles off the beach where he hooked up with a few shark and a pile of giant bluefish in the 14-18 lb. range. These blues were loaded with squid. They are looking forward to the bluefish season really breaking loose like gangbusters any day now.

Captain Charlie Adams of the **Bluefin Fleet** reports that both the **Bluefin II** and **III** had good fluking for their Saturday and Sunday charters. Charlie had the III out on Sunday's trip and he says they caught very good in the morning on the fluke, but it cooled off in the afternoon. The **Bluefin II** on Saturday fished Masone's anglers. Both boats worked the inlet area and Reyolds Channel with sand eels and spearing.

Charterboat Capt. Gary called to report that Saturday's trip for Meryll Lynch had a good day of fluking in Jones Inlet area and near the Coast Guard Station. High hook was Sonia Kmet with 4 fluke. Sunday the boat ran a half-day trip. Lon Jacobsen and son Richard gathered up a few nice keepers. The skipper says he has some choice weekend dates available in July.

Charter boat **Ivory Queen** called to report Saturday's shark charter for Len Reiss and Group total 15 bluefish up to 15 lbs. but no shark. The howling winds interfered with the day's results. Sunday's charter for Bob Sanders, President of M&S Window Shop, Inc. and employees went out after shark and had 13 large bluefish along with LeRoy Cantey's 68 lb. mako shark which took the boat pool. The mako was taken 150 degrees SE of Jones in 120' of water.

Capt. Mike of the charterboat **Apus** reports good bluefish trolling SE of Jone's Inlet in 90' of water during the week. Wednesday's charter had good blue shark action SE of the Inlet in 130' of water. Sunday's charter bailed some big bluefish on shark bait. A 100 lb. class mako, the first of the new season was caught on this trip due south of the inlet in 140' of water.

Capt. Dan on the charter boat **Nan Sea** tells us that Sunday's charter had a slow day, with conditions causing the chum to go nearly straight down. Even so the party headed by Tony Fiore of Bellmore managed some decent bluefish.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported things very slow on Saturday due to the wind, but on Sunday there was good action with fluke, blackfish and flounder. A trio of New Jerseyites, Bruno Grabiec, Walt Stevens and Ed Puzio returned with a catch of 40 fluke which they took on the flats bordering Reynolds Channel on spearing, sand eels and killies. "Florida" Louis of Orlando had 10 nice keepers fishing the channel with sand eels. Both flounder and blackfish continue to be taken near the bridges.

Capt. Dennis of the **Marie III** informs us that Saturday's charter for Al Porter and a group from the Post Office, had a slow pick on fluke due to the tornado winds but even so managed a 50 percent keeper ratio. Sunday's charter for the Double T Fishing Club boated nearly 200 fluke, only 43 of which were keepers. Phil Delaney took the pool with a 3½ lb. fluke. Runner up was Steve Kearney with a 2¾ lb. fluke. Best was the last half of the ebb in the a.m. Best area was Reynold's buoy 16 through 19. Buoy 16 was the spot in the afternoon. Squid, sandeels and spearing worked best.

Eight-year-old Stacy Halpin with a nice catch of blues made at Sandy Hook aboard the charter boat "Kim."

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** said that Tony Jennette and Ozzie Ozolins of Rosedale aboard the boat Okay loaded up Wednesday night with 600 lbs. of blues which they chummed i 120' of water 150° out of Debs Inlet. Most of the fish average 8 lbs. Charlie described the fluke fishing as picky, he said flounder are now finally tapering off and reported more and more crabs beginning to show in the back bays.

ATLANTIC BEACH

From **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** Skippy was most enthused about he and his son's encounter with the beluga whale near the inlet. He described it as the thrill of his life to have the mammal nose up alongside and allow them to pet him. Unfortunately Skippy was less enthused about the local fishing scene. Fluke fishing has been spotty and there are bluefish off in 120' of water for chummers and trollers. On a positive note, crabbing has improved greatly at Bay Park and in Woodmere Bay.

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** reports plenty of bluefish being caught on his boat, working mostly between the channels and Sandy Hook. Umbrellas are working best for blues up to 12 lbs. along with a few schoolie bass. Ronnie says that the water temperature is increasing and if the south winds hold, they will increase high enough to make the fishing super strong. Ron says that on every trip he makes out of Deb's Inlet every morning he meets the white Baluga whale. He says its very friendly and comes swimming over and goes under the boat and Ron says if you see the whale anywhere around you please be very careful and take your boat out of gear if he's anywhere near you. The whale can very easily be badly injured by your underwater gear and cut up by your prop. On a daily basis the whale comes up to the **Kim** and the mate scrubs his belly with a long handled brush. This is got to be a sight to behold. So again....please be careful.

JAMAICA BAY

The word from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** was of good fluking at the Marine Parkway bridge and the north and south channel bridges. Jose Roman had 7 summer flounder up to 2.4 lbs. at the South Channel bridge on squid and killie combos Saturday. On Sunday, Ross Honziker weighed in a 4¾ lb. fluke which he took from the Marine Parkway bridge.

Canarsie Sports and Tackle tells us that fluke are being taken in good numbers by boaters working just about everywhere in Jamica Bay. The fish are scattered all around but

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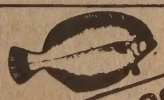

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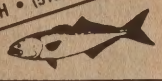

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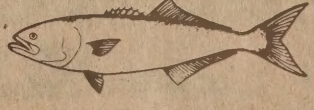

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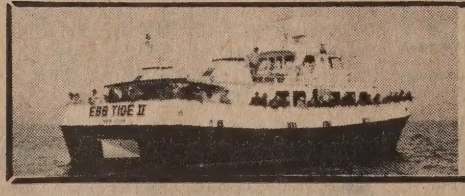

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there are lots of short fish also which must be returned to the water. Sy says a good hot spot is the Coney Island flats. This is on sandeel and killie. Action off the Canarsie Pier has been slow this past week. There are also plenty of eels in the Bay.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** said that boatmen have been making some nice catches of blackfish on the local wrecks and down at Seabright. Blues being jigged and chummed at the acid grounds and off of Shrewsbury. Manhattan Beach continues to produce flounder for worm fishermen. Very few bass being taken in the area.

Capt. Walt of the **Flamingo III** reports fair fluking Sunday. Catches would have been better but the lack of a breeze interfered with the drift. Monday through Saturday's fluking was excellent, the best showing of fluke so far this year. This was mostly along the Jersey shore, off Long Branch and Sunshine Beach, which is south of Long Branch, and the Highlands. Most fish have been keepers in the 2 to 2½ lb. class. Five fish this past week ran 4 to 8 lbs. Walt says with decent weather, fluking should be improving on a daily basis.

Please note that the **Flamingo III** is now swinging over to bluefish. See ad for details.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** reported very good fluke fishing for boatmen off of Gateway National Park and buoy 4 at Annandale. For casters, Lenny suggested the storm sewers, Great Kills Park, and the Princess Bay trademart. Blues in the 3-5 lb. range being taken on red and green tubes by trollers from Great Kills Harbor to Princess Bay.

This 8 lb. tautog was taken on a fiddler crab at Prybil Beach by Steven Korman. It was weighed at the Glen Cove Sport Shop.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

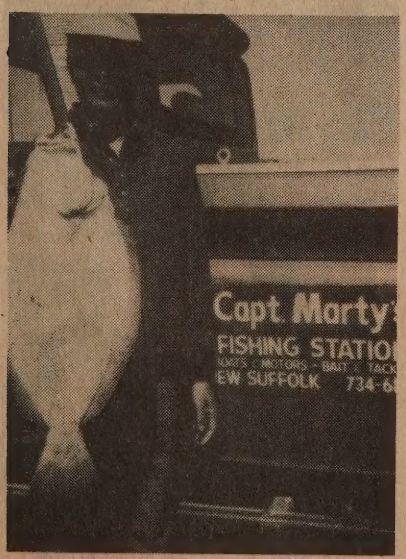
★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

Charterboat **Blue Albatross** with Capt. Dave Green at the wheel, on Saturday fished Beatrice Fechtig and family. Grandson John Wasson of Lebanon, NH, bagged an 11 lb. weak. Grandaugher Elisa was high hook for the day. They took a total of 47 weaks and 18 blues. Sunday's trip resulted in over 400 weakfish and 15 bluefish taken off Southold, in the bay. This was on squid strips and also on artificials.

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells of some porgy action at buoy 16, Noyac Bay and also between buoys 17 and 18. Porgies are also starting to show at Petty's Bight at the Orient Station. These are mixed fish up to 3 lbs. Weaks have been caught in the late afternoons on the weekend at buoy 16. These are 4 and 5 lb. fish which are hitting squid strips and also worms. At the Hole at Jennings Point and toward Greenlawn, blues, weaks and stripers are being taken at the middle of the flood, mostly on diamond jigs. This has been going on since Saturday morning. The blues are 2 to 4 pounders and the weaks are 4 to 7 pounders. Ask Ace for the exact location of these deep holes. Blacks at Orient at the Lighthouse on fiddlers and green crabs, blacks in the 2 to 3 lb. range.



Charlie Lum hefts a 10 lb. 4 oz. doormat fluke which he caught at buoy 23 in a skiff rented from Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

★GREENPORT★

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The porgies have arrived, as shown by this triple-header caught by Harvey Meadows of South Ozone Park aboard the Sag Harbor open boat "Wilhelric."

Flounders at Petty's Bight from ¾ to 1 plus pounds on worm and mussel. Off the Sound Beach, particularly Kennys Beach, blues, weaks, fluke and a few stripers are being caught both from boats and from the beaches. Evenings have been best on Hopkins, broken back Rebels, Redfins and bucktails.

A.P. White Bait Shop called to say that fluke are being caught on the east side of the Greenport jetty. Austin Lynch of S. Hempstead brought in an 11 lb. fluke to be weighed in. Also Artie tells us that, Capt. Rich Jensen of the charter boat **Nancy Ann**, had 40 to 50 weakfish and the same number of blues on a recent charter over the weekend. Good surf fishing at McCabe's Beach for weaks, blues, and blackfish. Blackfishing has been a good item off the Sound Shore Beaches. Local charter boats are also making good flounder catches. Porgies have improving around Gardiner's Island.

The **Peconic Star** reports a lot of flounder, blacks, porgies and pollack being taken this past week. The boat will be running a special Friday and Saturday New London-Fisher's Island trip. See ad for phone number and shoot in a call to get the details on this new program

NEW SUFFOLK

The fishing has greatly improved says Newt at **Capt. Jim's Fishing Station**, with weakfish in the 2 to 5 lb. range and porgies of mixed sizes being taken on squid, worms and clam. Best spots have been buoy 22, Nassau Point and west of Robin's Island, the other side of buoy 4. Catches are being made on both tides. Fish are definitely more plentiful now, says Newt.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** announces that the porgies have definitely arrived, having taken residence at Cedar Point, the east side of Gardiner's and east of Eastern Plains Point. Fares are bagging up to the tune of 15 to 20 good sized porgies a man. Saturday was the only off day due to the super winds. Harvey Meadows of South Ozone Park hoisted up the first triple-header of the season. Starting July 1st the skipper will begin 4 p.m. fluke trips to Gardiner's Island in addition to his 7 a.m. porgy trips. Please be advised that on weekends the boat will sail earlier than 7 a.m. if it fills up quickly so come down early.

Chris at **Bayview Marine & Tackle** tells of good porgy fishing at buoy 4, Cedar Point. Three friends in one skiff totaled roughly 75 porgies on Sunday. These good friends were Ralph Walton, John Anderson and Earl Brines of Brooklyn and they pulled fish up to 2½ lbs. on clam. Blues and weaks have been caught this past week in Noyac Bay on diamond jigs close to the bottom. The top of the flood has been best.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait & Tackle reports the Sound is holding porgies from a pound on up in front of the motels, at the barges at Reeves Beach on clam and worm. Blackfish on fiddlers and worm bait, fish running 3-8 lbs., with an occasional sea bass mixed in. Blues moving about in their usual madness all around the bay, fish going 3-7 lbs., being taken mostly on tin. As far as the bay goes, porgies have been caught this past week at buoys 17, 18 and 22 on clam and worm. Some weaks in the evenings running from 3-8 lbs. on jelly worms, sand worms and squid. The bay also is holding its share of some small 3-4 lb. blues, which of course attack most anything.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that good blackfishing continues off of the pipeline and in other rocky areas. Good showing of 1 lb. class porgies off of Broadway Shoal on clams, squid and worms. Little else doing in the area, according to Stan.

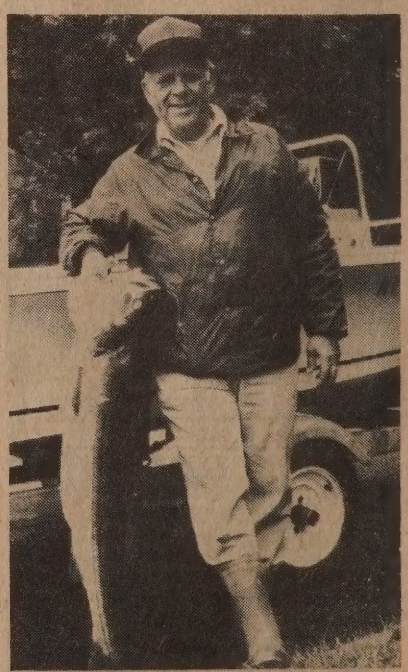
SELDEN

Ken at **Anglers Den** informs us that on Sunday night his son Ken Jr. bagged a 7½ lb. weakfish on a drifted sandworm. Ken had 1 bluefish which also went after a worm. Billy Whalan bagged a 13 lb. weakfish at buoy 11 on a jelly worm. Things are generally picky in the Sound right now due to the dragger invasion. A few porgies and blacks are being picked as well as a few small stripers. Best bet is bluefish which are picking up. Watch for breaking fish, birds working and of course those wonderful chart recorder scratches.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** tells of a lot of striper activity about a mile off Crane Neck. Bob was out and had seen loads of surface feeding bass which appeared to him to be 20 lb. class fish. He was out without any tackle at the time however. Catches have been slow otherwise, with some blues being trolled on umbrellas at buoy 9. A few porgies and blacks mainly at Mt. Sinai Inlet and at Port Jeff Harbor on clam. Some small bass at Port Jeff Harbor also on white Tri-fin Whiptails.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells of a lot of porgies being caught Sunday, mixed sizes up to 2 lbs. Best catches were at Rocky Point on clam and worm. Blackfish up to 6 lbs. have been taken in most of the rocky areas. Some bluefish in the 3 to 4 lb. range with lots of 5 and 6 pounders mixed in. Largest catch that Ralph



T. Kamienowski treated himself to a very special Father's Day gift when he worm trolled this 30 lb. striper at Marshall Field. Subscriber photo.

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saw on bluefish was 14 on Sunday, fished at Cedar Beach and inside buoy 11 on umbrellas. Lots of sandeels and bunker in the Sound. Blues are also being trolled and jigged at Middle Grounds.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports that Roy from the Club Nashville had a good catch of blacks one of which hit 8 lbs. 4 oz. fishing off Crane's Neck. One of their rental boats came in with 30 porgies. Bob Fitzpatrick had 12 bass fishing off Short Bay using Hopkins and poppers.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported a 12½ lb. blackfish for Howard Balsam of Dix Hills. The big tautog was taken on a fiddler crab off of Sand City. Good blackfishing continues at Eatons Neck on fiddlers green crabs, clams and worms.A good showing of porgies around Sand City and for casters, Tom mentioned Steers Dock. Pretty consistent action for casters and trollers at the power plant.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Ray of the charterboat **Eclipse** on Sunday had Mr. D out and they did a good job on bluefish in the 4 to 5 lb. class at Lloyd's Point on both umbrellas and bucktail. Ray says that porgies are starting now outside off of Crab Meadow Beach on clam.

Capt. Tony on the charter boat **Foxy Lady** called to say that bluefish have been making their appearance around buoy 11B during early morning hours. Friday's charter for "Hot Off The Press" did a great job on blues in the morning filling the box off Eaton's Neck. Saturday and Sunday's charter also did well on blues in the early morning. Bill Romaro took an 11 lb. blue and finished off the day with a 7 lb.

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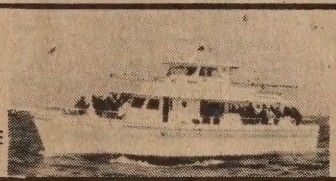

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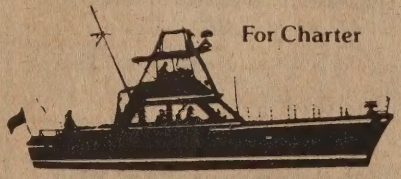

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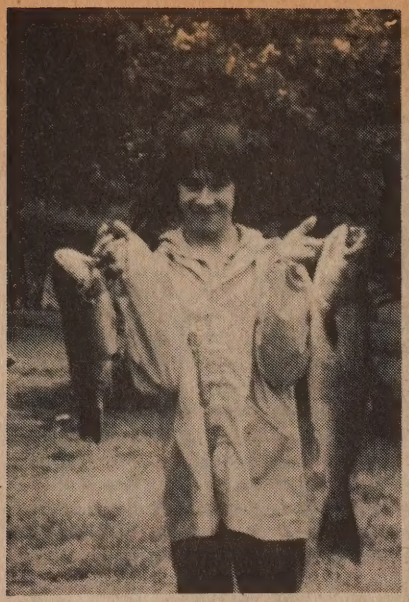


Keith Goring with a 3½ lb. blackfish and an 8 lb. weak taken on his first fishing trip ever. He fished aboard a skiff rented from Caraftis Fishing Station.

blackfish.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that Brooklyn Angler Carlo Vega had the largest blackfish of the week, an 8½ pounder which he caught off Eaton's Neck. Sunday afternoon 7 yr. old Justen Kayal of Birchwood School boated a 4½ lb. black and several other nice fish. Most of the catch this past week has been flounder and blacks. A lot of blues are being caught off Lloyd's Point in the buoy 15 area.

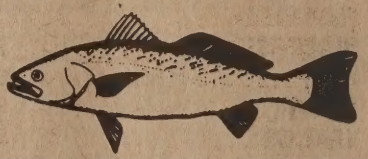
Lots of big bass from 25-54 lbs. taken from midweek through the weekend outside of Huntington Harbor. Live eels and bunker have been doing in most of the big bass. Bluefish in the 4 lb. class with some going to 7 lbs. being trolled on umbrellas in the early AM off of Lloyd's Point. Still blackfish at Eatons Neck, although the hectic action has slowed. School bass to 12 lbs. and some weakfish being worm trolled along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway and at Whitewood Point.

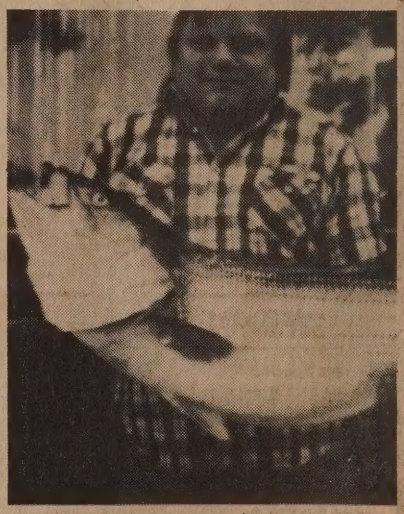
George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** relayed word of a steady parade of big stripers being carried in to his shop for weighing. The hot fishing began at midweek and continued through the weekend just outside of Huntington Harbor. Among those scoring in recent days were Peter Martin with a 26.5, John Pellegrino, a 38 lber., Jim Wulfuorst who had 50 lber. along with a 31. His 10-year-old son Jim Bryan, clicked with a 32 lber. Dick Deasy had a 31.8, Larry Eckert, a 30, and Carl Russo led the parade with a 54.8 lb. cow. Most of the above fish were taken on live eels. In addition, George said that wire liners have been trolling blues from 3-6 lbs. at Diamond Point. Catches of a bucket or more of 1/2 to 3/4 lb. porgies not unusual at Sand City with an occasional 2-3 lb. weak mixed in. Blackfishing still good in the area.

GLEN COVE

Capt. Joe Fink of the **Lady Lil II** called to say that his fares are picking away at blackfish off Stanford, CT beaches. Sunday at Eaton's neck, high hook was Sid from Bayside. Porgies are starting to show as are the bluefish. Joe says when he sees them he stops on them, and this has happened every one of the last 4 days.

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported a catch of six blackfish to 10 lbs. 15 oz. at the Prybil Pier for Miguel Martinez. The big tautog is the current leader in the shop's blackfish division. Boatmen taking some small blues in Hempstead Harbor and Dave looked over a catch made by one angler who filled a 5-gallon pail with sand porgies using clams at Prybil Beach Sunday afternoon.





This 33 lb. striper was taken on a trolled sandworm at Lloyd's Point by Bobby Kamp. The fish was weighed at Ronnie's Bait and Tackle Shop in Huntington.

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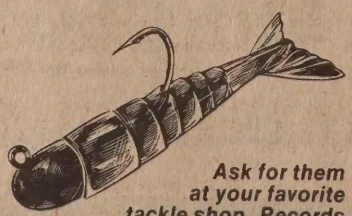

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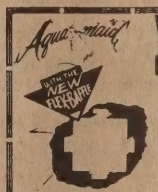

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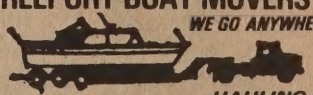

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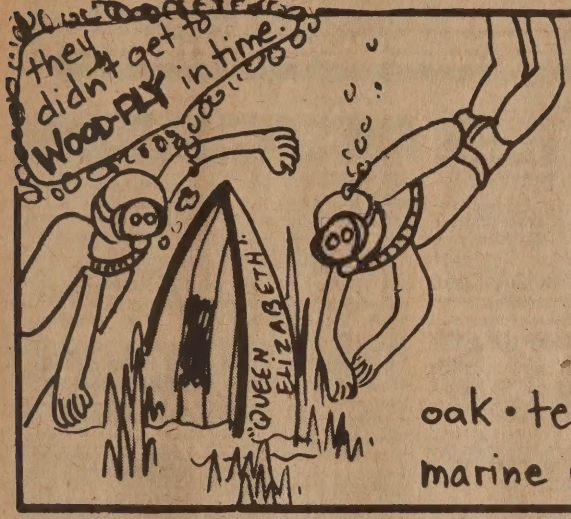

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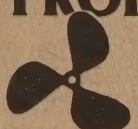

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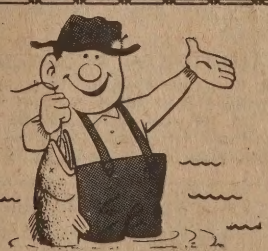

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Jim Cuito displays a 9¾ lb. weak taken on a jelly worm in Peconic Bay. Subscriber Photo.

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To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

BOATS & MOTORS

1980 SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
2-$259; 5-$498; 8-$595; 9.9-$700; 16-$800; 25-$899; 40-$1149; 50-$1499; 65-$1799; 85-$1795; 85 oil injected - $2295. 85s include power tilt & trim. h.p. rated at propeller in water on all models. F.O.B./D.H. SOUTH SHORE SUZUKI, 41 W. Sunrise Hwy., Freeport, N.Y. 516-868-3111.

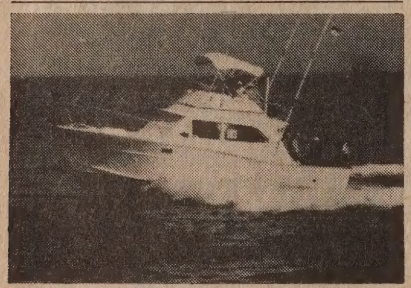
18' CRESTLINER Bowrider, 85 h.p. Merc., 18 gal. gas tank & 5 gal. spare. Full 3-pc canvas W/Side curtains; CB, depth recorder/flasher; 2 anchors and 500' line. Compass, CG pkg. Dock paid until Oct.; in water. Will demo. $5200. Richmond Hill. 847-4631 after 6PM.

1978 AQUASPORT 22' 6" Merc. 200 h.p. Black Max; also 10 h.p. Merc. Auxiliary motor; DF-Fish record, CB, VHF. Full canvas enclosure. Winter cover. Dual batteries; outriggers; downriggers. $10,500 Eves. 212-229-6250.

27' SILVERTON 1971 Sportfisherman, F.B., Chrysler 225 FWC, VHF, CB, outriggers, DF. Very good condition. Weekdays: 212-672-5400. Weekends & Nites: 212-LC 9-9055.

1967 CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS 26 1978 250 h.p. SW-cooled engine. Tiller; stern controls. Anchor + 600' line; compass; CB; VHF; depth recorder. Much more; excl. cond. $6000. 212-347-3852.

21' STAMAS, 140 h.p. Johnson Cuddy Cabin w/head; VHF and CB radios. Depth sounder. Full canvas. Loaded w/extras. Excellent condition. 212-357-9557.



1968 FREEPORTER Cruiser, 36' 2 FWC Palmers 225 h.p. copper risers, 2.5:1 red'n, Monel tanks. Sleeps 6. Head w/shower; complete galley, Constavolt, FWC generator 4KW. Ross recorder, VHF, CB. Tournament chair; teak cockpit; Fiberglassed decks. Strip planked. Everdur fastened, double-planked bottom. Extras. Showroom condition. Dr. O'Brien. Nites: 516-666-4184 Days: 516-665-1330. Asking: $25,000.

20' MAKO 1978 Evinrude 115 h.p. Shoreline Galv. trailer; spare tire, gauges, spray hood, VHF Horizon 25, compass, depth finder; CG equipped. Winter cover. Many extras. All excellent condition. $5800. 516-669-6723.

1977 26' PACEMAKER Glass Express Cruiser, 220 Crusader. Used 2 summers. Stand-up head and vanity. Ice box, stove, sink, F to F dinette. Many more extras. 474-6422 After 6PM.

WHITE WATER 19' Center Console 1978 70 h.p. Evinrude. Very low hours. Bimini top; 40 gal. fuel tank; CB, DF, compass. Excellent condition. Will sell without motor. After 7PM. 212-527-4498.

EGG HARBOR '74, 30', 2/225s, FWC. Fully equipped. Excellent condition. Must Sell. 516-654-8711.

19' AQUASPORT Family Fisherman 85 h.p. Evinrude. Full canvas. Inst. Panel. Elect. bilge, pole holders. Rod racks, CB, depth finder. In water. 212-456-3543.

1978 JOHN DORY 19' "Fisherman" center console. Morse controls, 1979 Chrysler motor 85 h.p. with warranty; 1978 Galvanized trailer with electric winch. Excellent condition. Asking $4300. 516-765-3101.

'76 MAKO 20' 115 Evinrude; E-Z Load trailer, S/S T-Top, CB, VHF Hailer, temp. Many extras. Call Days: 212-699-4321 Tony.

24' Custom Cuttyhunk Bass Boat (Silverton Sea Skiff). Chrysler FWC slant 6; dual batteries; fore & aft tiller steering & controls. Fish box and chairs + many extras. In water; ready to fish. $5600. Eves. 914-628-8912.

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20' SHAMROCK Cuddy 1979; VHF, CB, D/F. All canvas; plus extras. Beautiful condition. $13,000. 516-473-9785.

GRADY WHITE '76, 20' 4" Hatteras, center console, '76 200 h.p. Johnson O/B. Shoreline Trailer, VHF, graph recorder; p. winch, compass, rod holders. Many extras. Garaged. Immaculate. Must see. $9500. 516-249-2489.

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28' DORSETT - Fiberglas Sportfisherman. Flybridge T.S. 180 Crusders; FWC, Bimini, SS tanks. Fighting chair; Ross recorder. Top shape. Loaded. 212-680-3857.

DIESEL—DIESEL—DIESEL
Detroit Diesel; Diesel parts and equipment at the lowest prices & fastest service on the East Coast. Many small diesels also available. OLSEN DIESEL ENGINE CORP., 60 South Montgomery Ave., Bay Shore. 516-665-5599.

29' 1971 Olsen "SHEARWATER" Mint condition; 255 Merc. Cedar on oak, teak decks, fully outfitted. Must see. Priced to sell. 516-678-5746. 516-431-8021.

1979 EVINRUDES 1979
2-$260; 4-$375; 6-$560; 9.9-$700; 15-$800; 25-$948; 35-$1060; 55-$1560; 70-$1768; 85-$2013; 100-$2090; 115-$2165;140-$2285; 150-$2900; 175-$3000; 200-$3050; 235-$3295. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

33' CONCORDE Brigantine, recently repowered; VHF, CB, Ross recorder. Elec. refrig; pressure water, galley, head. Sleeps 6. Dual control stations, 220 gal. gas capacity, Monel shafts. Teak cockpit and trim. Bimini top. Extra props. Original owner. At Babylon Marine, 516-587-0333 days.

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Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Solid pewter. Beautiful antique brass finish. Striper, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke/flounder, shark, harpoon head. Really beautiful! $7 ea. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

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Get the rig that got the World Record 22 lb. 7 oz. fluke. And get the advice and fishing techniques that caught him, in Your Guide to Doormat Fluke Fishing. By World Record Holder, CAPT. C. NAPPI. $3 per book; or a book & hook, $4.50. 54-28 Nurge Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378.

Clearing out all Marine Supplies—Woolsey paint, hardware, etc. Thirty percent off. Supplies limited. HOOK, LINE & SINKER Bait & Tackle, 102 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, NY 11520. 516-623-2522.

New Pompanette 6' Flying Gaff. Used once. $90 if bought new. Only $55. 212-347-3852.

Boat slip for rent. Freeport. Prime commercial location. Ideal for 6-man charter boat. 516-352-2986. After 7PM.

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FREE CATALOG—Fishermen's pewter belt buckles. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

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MASTIC BEACH, Longfellow Dr. four lots, block from Mastic Beach Property Owner Marina. Accept reasonable offer. Owner: 212-548-2950.

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NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ PORGIES

CITY ISLAND

Capt. Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** asked us to let you know that next Sunday night at 1 a.m., he is running his special Mattituck bluefish and porgy trip. This should be a dynamite expedition. It is advised that you call the **Ebb Tide II** for full details and phone number. This past weeks fishing for the boat has been mainly blackfish, flounder and the first showing of porgies. Catches on blackfish were a little tougher ont he weekend due to the heavy private boat traffic.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that some blackfish are still being taken at Execution Light on fiddlers and green crabs. Sand porgies, while only a few, made an appearance this past weekend and Greg expects plenty will be taken by this coming weekend.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Dull is the best way to sum up this past week's surf activity around our Island's beaches. Reports offered little encouragement for surfmen seeking to rationalize long hours spent working the beach. With July just around the corner, the whole picture might appear pretty dismal. However, next week's full moon and a calendar that has been a couple of weeks behind schedule, should provide enough reason for most of us to be optimistic about the next two weeks.

South Shore

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island described the surf action as very slow this past week, with only a few small bass being taken at Penny Beach and Cliff Street. Worms have been taking the fish at Penny Beach, while bucktails and tins have been scoring at the latter location. The last two hours of outgoing water producing at both locations. Despite the current poor fishing, Lenny is optimistic about next week's full moon. He said this year's pattern of two weeks of poor fishing before the moon has been repeated in past years and was followed by brisk action with bass and blues.

Jimmy Lane with a 8 lb. blackfish taken aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide II."

At the **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle Shop** a 17 lb. striper was weighed in by Luddy Messina. He took the fish early Sunday morning on a bunker fillet at the North Channel Bridge. Subscriber Joe Gianturco used bunker chunks to put away a trio of fine bass early Monday morning. The fish, all taken at Fort Tilden, checked in at 31.12, 21.4 and 21 lbs.

Hays of the **Store** at Oak Beach said that Carl Piazza, his wife and 2 children filled a large Igloo cooler with 15 weaks to 10.4 lbs. and a 20.2 bass over the weekend. Hays, who looked over the catch, was told that all were taken on sand worms at Gilgo. Besides this fine catch, a couple of weaks and blues continue to be taken at the Sore Thumb on bait and tins. Joe Chlanda and "John the Greek" both scored with big weakfish during the middle of last week.

Tom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in Shinnecock spoke of a few blues on plug and tin in the inlet. Bass action slacked off considerably from last week, although a couple of fish were managed in recent days.

Out at Montauk, Johnny Kronuch reported some nice bass were again in evidence during midweek on False Bar and at Jones. Unfortunately, again most of the fish were in a non-biting mood although a 23 and 26 lber. did fall to RedFins. One fish estimated in the high 30s was dropped at the gaff. Tuesday evening, bluefish in the 4-5 lb. class provided a flurry of activity at Jones. Over the weekend, everything remained very quiet.

North Shore

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** weighed in a 12.4 lb. bluefish for an angler by the name of Walter.

YOUR RIGHT TO FISH IS BEING ATTACKED

- **Pesticide run-offs, oil spills, industrial wastes, PCBs, acid rains and other man-created pollutants are destroying your fishing.**
- **Commercial fishing operators in some cases have all but ruined sport fishing in certain parts of the country.**
- **Anti-fishing groups are organized and working against you.**

Here's what you can do:
As one person you can't do much. But joined with 33 million other licensed fishermen in the U.S., you can win the battle for your fishing rights. By joining the American Sportfishing Federation, you will be taking the first step to winning that battle.

The American Sportfishing Federation is now being formed. With your help it will become *the* organization to protect your fishing rights. The Federation has the legislative experts, lawyers, biologists, environmentalists and public information people who can effectively help you do this vital job.

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I am a member of the following fishing club:

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Offer good in U.S.A. Consumers only. Allow four to six weeks for processing and delivery. Zip codes must be included to ensure delivery. Offer expires on November 30, 1980.

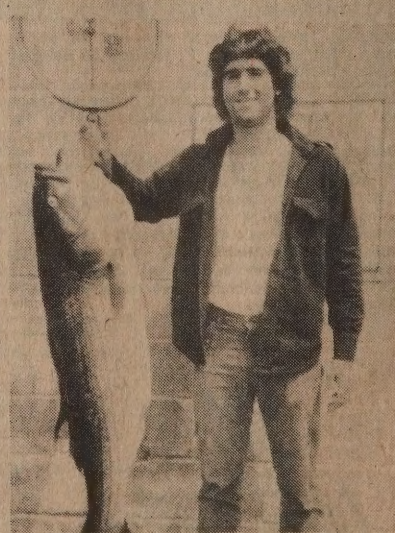
Walt said he took the fish on a Kastmaster in Turtle Cove early Monday AM. Good action with school bass continues around Turtle Cove and Eastchester Creek. A few blues mixed in with the bass over the past week. Rebels, small tins and worms providing most of the action.

At the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** Dave reported a couple of blues in the 4-6 lb. class at Prybil Beach. Saturday evening casters enjoyed a minor blitz with 5 lb. blues at Stehlis Beach in Bayville. Most of this action was on tins. Small Tri-Fin Eel Worms and sand eel jigs have been taking some 3-4 lb. weaks and bluefish during incoming water at West Harbor. Steve Ramskill had 4 weaks there over the weekend. Dave added that the whole area is now chock-ful of bait, both sand eels and bunker being in evidence.

In the Huntington area, despite a run of big stripers for boatmen drifting eels just outside the harbor little has been happening along the beaches. This according to both **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** and **Four Winds Bait and Tackle**

Blues come and go at the Northport power plant according to Tom at **Bowman's Sport Shop**. Rebels, tins, Tri-Fin Whiptails and poppers have all produced fish in the 5 lb. class along with an occasional school bass from amongst the many shorts in the area.

Further east, Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** called the surf fishing pitiful. He said the only action all week was a flurry of 4 lb. blues and a 25 lb. bass taken last Wednesday from one of the local beaches. It appeared to be just a one-shot deal.



Jim Bregman with his 51 lb. 6 oz. striper taken on a live eel at Huntington Beach last week. Fish was weighed at Four Winds Tackle Shop in Huntington.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:10	7:30	7:55	8:15	7:50	8:05	8:45	8:50	10:55	10:40	10:35	10:50	7:05	7:25	6/26
FRI.	7:50	8:10	8:35	8:55	8:35	8:45	9:25	9:35	11:20	11:15	11:15	11:30	7:45	8:05	6/27
SAT.	8:35	8:50	9:20	9:35	9:15	9:25	10:05	10:15	11:55	–	–	12:00	8:35	8:50	6/28
SUN.	9:20	9:35	10:05	10:20	10:00	10:05	10:50	11:00	12:00	12:35	12:10	12:45	9:20	9:35	6/29
MON.	10:05	10:25	10:50	11:05	10:50	10:55	11:40	11:45	12:40	1:20	12:55	1:30	10:05	10:20	6/30
TUE.	10:55	11:10	11:35	11:55	11:45	11:50	–	12:30	1:30	2:05	1:45	2:20	10:50	11:10	7/1
WED.	11:50	–	–	12:25	–	12:35	12:35	1:20	2:20	2:55	2:35	3:10	11:45	–	7/2
THUR.	12:05	12:45	12:45	1:25	12:45	1:30	1:30	2:15	3:10	3:50	3:25	4:00	12:05	12:40	7/3

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

6/27	5:26	8:40
6/28	5:27	8:40
6/29	5:27	8:40
6/30	5:27	8:40
7/1	5:28	8:39
7/2	5:28	8:39
7/3	5:28	8:39

PHASES OF THE MOON

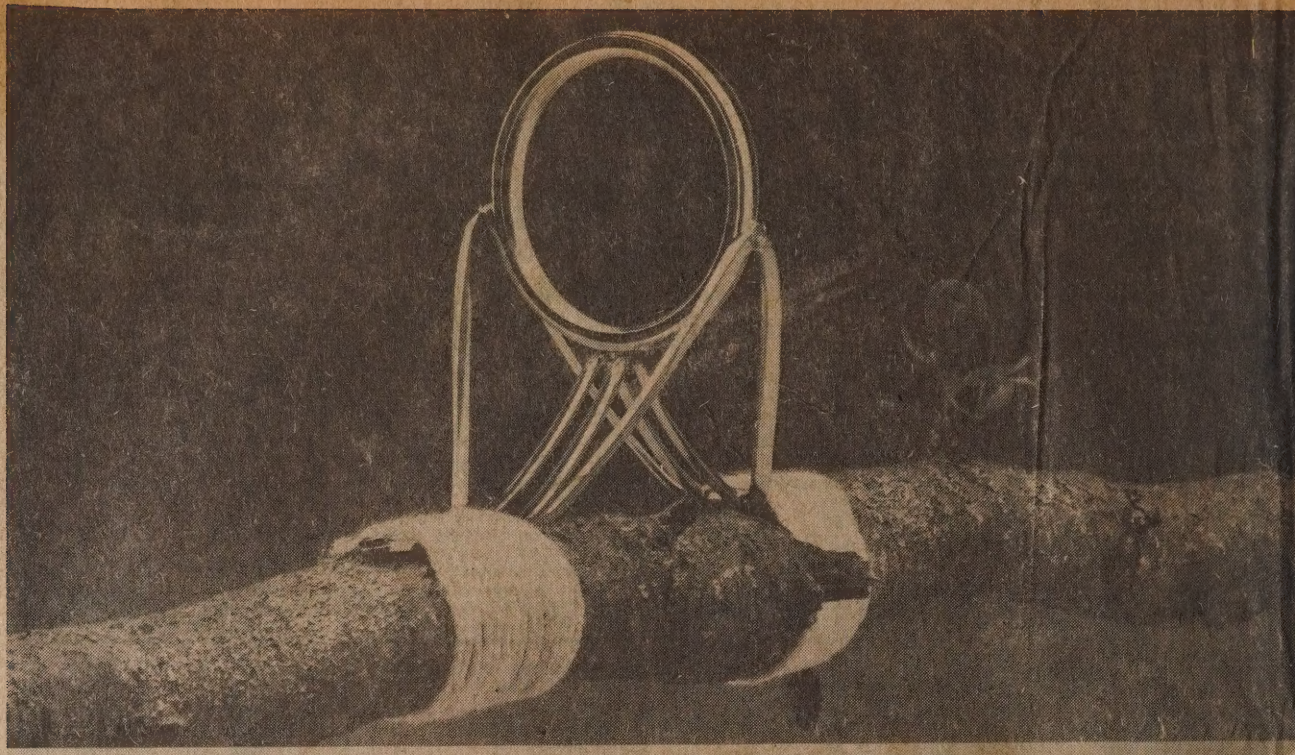
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/12	6/20	6/28	6/6

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	3:25	**10:00**	3:55	**10:25**
Fri.	4:10	**10:50**	4:40	**11:15**
Sat.	5:00	**11:40**	5:30	—
Sun.	5:50	**12:05**	6:20	**12:40**
Mon.	6:50	**1:05**	7:15	**1:40**
Tues.	7:55	**2:10**	8:20	**2:40**
Wed.	8:55	**3:10**	9:20	**3:35**
Thurs.	9:50	**4:05**	10:15	**4:30**



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